

OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE



THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2017

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70P WHERE SOLD

COLLEGE MERGER PROPOSAL HALTED

Report by Jonny Drury

BOSSES at Oswestry's North Shropshire College say they are already looking at "alternative strategies" for the future after announcing a planned merger with Nantwich-based Reaseheath College had broken down at the 11th hour.

The colleges have successfully worked closely together in federation for over a year but bosses said this week long-term funding is not available to support a potential merger.

The college management teams and governors of both institutions have been working with the Education and Skills Funding Agency and the Treasury Transaction Unit, for the past 10 months, to secure sufficient funds.

But despite best efforts and long discussions, the organisations have been unable to fund a merger sufficiently to enable the college management teams and governors to recommend with confidence that the financial support offered will ensure a successful merger.

College bosses said a huge amount of work and expense had gone into the plan over the past 18 months and both college management teams and governors were extremely disappointed with the outcome.

North Shropshire College and its management team will now work to find an alternative solution.

A spokesperson for both colleges said: "Following extensive discussions with the Government Transaction Unit, a decision has been made not to proceed to formal merger between Reaseheath College and North Shropshire College."

"The conclusion to this process is disappointing to both colleges and the Government, but we have explored all possible long-term funding support and unfortunately there is not a viable solution."

Peter McCann, interim principal at North Shropshire College, said: "After so much work together it is of course disappointing that the merger has broken down at the 11th hour but North Shropshire College has already begun discussing alternative strategies with our community and government stakeholders and we will ensure that the outcome serves the needs of our students, employers and community as effectively as possible."

First CultureFest celebrates town's diversity



Jools Payne shares a joke with Hazim Mehdi and Mustafa Salem during Oswestry's first ever CultureFest on Saturday. Photo: Tim Thursfield.

ORGANISERS of Oswestry's first ever CultureFest, held to celebrate the town's cultural diversity, said they were delighted with the success of Saturday's event and with how many local people joined in.

Running alongside the Shropshire Produce Market, CultureFest drew crowds of people to the town centre.

Jools Payne, one of the organisers, said: "It's been absolutely brilliant. This is the first

CultureFest but there is a huge appetite for another one."

County Councillor for Oswestry South Paul Milner was full of praise for the number of people at the event.

"I have nothing but praise for the public's support for people from other cultures and countries," he said.

"Oswestry is a very welcoming place whether you are a tourist or a shopper visit-

ing the market, or whether you move to the town to live."

The event also helped to boost trade in the town. Tom Jones, owner of the Liar Liar cafe, said: "It's brought a really nice atmosphere to the town."

"It's brought extra trade. It would be great to have this event happen again."

"It's nice it was so well received."

● Celebrated - See Page 25

HOUSING

Plan for 600 new homes could be hit by further delay

A SCHEME to build up to 600 homes on the outskirts of Oswestry could be delayed again as highways bosses ask for more proof it will not affect the existing road network.

Landowner J Ross Developments submitted an application to build on 24 hectares of land between the Oswestry bypass and Shrewsbury Road, near Mile End roundabout, to Shropshire Council more than a year ago. But now Highways England has recommended it shouldn't be considered for at least another two months.

It has asked the developer to prove the scheme will not interfere with the Strategic Road Network (SRN). Highways England say the SRN is a "critical national asset" which is made up of the motorways and trunk roads in England, and its focus is to ensure it operates smoothly. Councillor John Price, who represents Oswestry East on Shropshire Council, said he was disappointed "the plans had been delayed again. 'I thought it would be done and dusted by now so I really don't know what is going on with the development any more,' he said.

Highways England was originally consulted on the application in July 2016 when it recommended a three-month period of non-determination.

ENTERTAINMENT

Park set to host Latin musical fun

SHOUTS of "Ole!" will be heard in Oswestry on Sunday.

Residents will be dusting off their boleros and Cuban heels for "Latin in the Park", a musical afternoon of foot stamping, head flicking and finger snapping in Cae Glas Park. Organised by Neil Phillips of Eclectic and Fernando Navarro, the free event takes place from midday to 7pm.

The event will bring Oswestry Town Council's 2017 programme of bandstand music to a close.

INSIDE

Exam delight for A Level students



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Popular rally event will soon hit end of the road

Report by Andrew Morris

AN event that has been a mainstay on the sporting and social calendar for 13 years will call it a day after one final time.

The Mid Wales Rally Forum in Welshpool was first held in 2004 and has since welcomed some of the biggest names from the world of rallying and raised almost £100,000 for local causes in the process.

But the next event will be the last, with organisers moving it to the bigger venue of The Hafren in Newtown to go out with a bang.

It will be held on January 6 with tickets, £15 available from The Hafren's box office. Special guests will be announced in the next few weeks.

The forum has been running since 2004 and was originally the idea of former World Rally Champion co-driver, Phil Mills, fellow top Welsh co-driver, Howard Davies and local garage owner John Whittall Williams.

The idea was to raise some money for local charities to take advantage of Phil's world championship profile.

They brought on board Howard Watkins from Rally Marketing and Nigel Williams to help put the idea into action.

Over the years it has attracted the likes of Petter Solberg, Ari Vatanen, Mikko Hirvonen, Malcolm Wilson and Kris Meeke plus many local stars including Mark Higgins and the father and son driving champions of Gwyndaf and Elyn Evans.

But there is still one last milestone to cross before the event calls it quits.

It is hoped the last event will bring the total raised for charity to £100,000. One charity that will benefit will be Brecon Mountain Rescue which helped in the search for Montgomery teenager James Corfield. James's body was found in the River Wye during the week of the Royal Welsh Show. "It has been decided that as the Forum has so far raised £99,000, it would be a pity if we couldn't raise the last £1,000 to make it £100,000 donated to charities, before ending the forum," the spokesperson added.

Firm's fundraisers were roaming around



Members of the Pave Aways team on their Roman themed coast to coast walk for Cure Leukaemia

STAFF at building contractor Pave Aways have raised more than £5,000 in memory of a colleague by trekking the length of Hadrian's Wall - dressed as Roman soldiers.

The team donned traditional tunics and metal helmets to complete the 90-mile coast to coast challenge in just three days to raise funds for Cure Leukaemia.

The charity helped to build, and continues to fund, the Centre for Clinical Haematology at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham where Neil Holding,

Pave Aways' former quality manager, was treated for acute lymphoblastic leukaemia last year.

Neil, who lived in Shrewsbury, was diagnosed with the disease in April 2016 and died in December.

More than £5,270 has been collected in sponsorship by the staff who took part, and are all based at Pave Aways' headquarters at Knockin, near Oswestry.

Managing director Steven Owen said: "Neil was not only a colleague but a friend

to many of us and our aim was to raise awareness of the great work of Cure Leukaemia.

"The centre does brilliant work and everyone at Pave Aways wanted to continue supporting a charity that meant so much to him."

Mr Owen added: "We had great fun completing the challenge and we really appreciated all the donations that will go towards the work of Cure Leukaemia and the centre."

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Custodial sentence for drug offences

A YOUNG man who dealt Class A drugs in order to pay off his own debts has been locked up for two years.

Jack Maguire was just 17 when he was caught with wraps of heroin, cocaine and some cannabis. Shrewsbury Crown Court heard Maguire had likely been taken advantage of by those higher up in the chain of drug dealing. Police had been called to Oswestry Health Centre to reports of suspicious behaviour at 9.20am on May 9 last year.

There they saw three men, including the defendant who made off on foot. Prosecuting, Jonathan Dickinson, said they followed until he ran into a home in Monkmoor Close where he attempted to hide in a spare room. He was found and detained by police who searched him and found £85, a mobile phone and two small lumps of cannabis.

Mr Dickinson said: "He was taken back to the police vehicle and along the route the defendant had run they found more drugs. A silver wrap was found with six individual wraps of heroin and one of cocaine."

One officer had remained in the room where the defendant had attempted to hide and a search found further heroin and cocaine. There was a total of 38 packages of the drug with an estimated street value of £380.

On July 2, Maguire, 18, of Queen's Drive in Walton, Liverpool, admitted three charges, two relating to possessing class A drugs with intent to supply and a simple possession charge relating to the cannabis.

Kyra Badman, for Maguire, said he had suffered with anxiety and depression. She said it was the first time he had ever been in trouble and that he had found it a very "difficult" experience. She said he had his own debts from cannabis which had led to him taking part in the crime. Miss Badman added: "He is a vulnerable person who people higher up in the business model, likely in Liverpool where this defendant is originally from, can use in this way."

Couple describe shock of Barcelona terror attack

Report by Jonny Drury

A COUPLE have spoken of their horror after a near miss with the Barcelona terrorist attack that killed 13 people and left dozens injured.

Harry Davies, 25, and Phoebe Jones, 20, from Morda near Oswestry, were on holiday in Barcelona when a terrorist drove a van into crowds in the famous Las Ramblas tourist area on Thursday last week.

The couple had been staying in a hotel two streets from where the attack happened.

Harry described the moments after the attack and admitted the couple knew something was wrong, but did not realise it was a terrorist attack until they got back to their room and switched the television on.

He said: "It was a scary experience. We had been in the area hours before and walked onto the street just after it happened."

"There was a silence about the place, everyone just seemed very shocked and then one person just starting running and then everyone else followed."

"People were running into shops and the shutters were going up, so we ran as fast as we could back to our hotel."

"We just carried on running and there were thousands of people behind us."

"We got back to the hotel and that was when we realised it had been a terrorist attack." The couple were walking towards the street in Las Ramblas before the attack happened, but were stopped by a street seller when the attack unfolded.

Harry added: "We were walking along and Phoebe was stopped for about five minutes by a woman selling pedicures on the side of the street."

"If we had not been stopped maybe we would have been caught up in it, because when we got to the area it seemed as if something had not long happened."

Phoebe added: "There were so many people running. People were asking police officers what happened but they were telling everyone to just get out of the area."



Harry Davies and Phoebe Jones from Morda near Oswestry were in Barcelona when terrorists struck

Family stroll just hours before shootings

AN Oswestry family were strolling through Cambrils just hours before five terrorists were shot dead in the quiet Spanish holiday resort on Friday morning.

Spain has been left in a state of shock as first a van rammed into people in Las Ramblas in Barcelona, killing 13 and injuring dozens in the process, and then on Friday morning Spanish police confirmed they had

shot dead five suspected terrorists in Cambrils – following a second vehicle attack.

They said the men were wearing suicide belts and controlled explosions had taken place.

Kelly Ann Evans and her husband Paul from Oswestry were holidaying in the resort with their two children Connie and Max.

Just hours before, they were walk-

ing along the promenade where the attack happened.

Kelly said: "It is scary to think we were there."

"We were all quite shocked and scared, but we are away from where it happened and everyone has calmed down and is a lot safer now."

Police have said the men involved in the Cambrils attack were linked to the Barcelona attack.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Church will be hosting festival

ST Gwynog's Church in Llanwnnog is holding a flower festival between Saturday and Monday, with the theme 'to God be the glory'.

Plants and produce will be on sale throughout the day along with refreshments.

The church will be open from 10am until 4.30pm.

On Saturday at 7pm entertainment will be provided with an organ recital from Andrey Chulovskiy, with soloist Alex Chulovskiy – followed by light refreshments.

On Sunday there will be a songs of praise service at 6pm.

All proceeds will go towards Church Roof Restoration Fund.

Hundreds enjoy work of artists

HUNDREDS of people visited a summer art exhibition and the winner of the best painting has been crowned.

Paula Salmons won the best picture award for her work, Double Whammy, at the Oswestry and District Society of Artists exhibition.

Visitors were asked to choose their favourite painting out of nearly 200 exhibits at the town's Memorial Hall.

Ian Hinsley from Ellesmere won the raffle prize which was Colin Radcliffe's painting of Venice.

The art group recently went on a trip to Wollerton Old Hall Gardens near Market Drayton.

Chance to have tea with the Tudors

AN afternoon tea with a Tudor reenactment group will take place in the Church House in Welshpool on September 2 between 2pm and 5pm, to which everyone is welcome to attend.

The afternoon will offer the chance to see dancing from the Tudor period, plus the chance to chat with the re-enactors who will be in costume and have costumes available for those who would like to dress up in the fashions of that time in our history.

Tickets are adults £5 and children/OAP £3 available in advance from Welshpool Jewellers.

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Mikey Hall with his mum Inge

Big show of support for brave Mikey

THE family of a Paralympian, who is recovering from emergency surgery, have been inundated with messages of support.

Mikey Hall from St Martins near Oswestry underwent an operation at the end of June, and afterwards contracted septicaemia and was

placed in a medically induced coma. His mother Inge said it has been a "worrying and stressful time" but praised the doctors and nurses who have cared for him.

Mikey is an ex-serviceman who joined the Army in 1995, serving in the 1st The Queen's Dragoons

Guard. In 2000 he was left paralysed from the chest down after an accident during a training exercise.

Determined injury wouldn't stop him from enjoying life, he joined the Help for Heroes Sports Recovery Programme and managed to excel in his archery field.

His mother said the family home is now covered in get well cards and gifts from people they don't even know wishing Mikey the best in his recovery.

She said: "We're having around 10 cards a day and have so many here now."

Vans targeted in spate of thefts from vehicles

Report by Aimee Jones

THIEVES have been targeting several works vans in Oswestry.

A van at a business unit in Maesbury Road Industrial Estate was raided between 7.30pm on Tuesday and 7.30am on Wednesday last week.

A sat nav and a hands-free mobile phone unit were taken. Between 5pm on Tuesday and 7.30am on Wednesday last week, a large red tool box and a small red tool box were taken from a works van parked in Trehowell Lane, Weston Rhyn. On the same night, between 10 and 7am, a pair of Dewalt black and yellow sunglasses were stolen from a van which was parked on a driveway in Thomas Penson Road in Gobowen.

Recycling site times changed

AFTER a long battle recycling centres in Mid Wales will return to opening five days a week next month.

It has been a long and drawn out process since Powys County Council's previous cabinet announced in January it wanted to save money by closing the centres to three days a week.

The decision was finalised and in April the centres moved to three day opening.

However, months later, with a new council and cabinet in place, a review was called and it was decided to reverse the three-day model.

The review is complete and the new opening times for the five centres have now been released. Welshpool will now be shut on Monday and Tuesdays, and open 9am to 5pm Wednesday to Friday and then 10am to 4pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Other thefts from vehicles include four hub caps stolen from a Fiat car parked at a business in Whittington Road, Oswestry, between 9am and 9.40am on Tuesday last week. Between 5pm on August 11 and 8am on August 14, a compound at a development site in Elgar Close, near Oswestry town centre was broken into. Police say damage was done to the plasterwork but no thefts were noted.

On the afternoon of August 13, a white plant pot and a valuable orchid was taken from a kitchen window sill at a house in Lawford Gardens, Oswestry and overnight on August 14, a car repair workshop on the Maesbury Road Industrial Estate was broken into. A computer, tool chest and batteries were taken. A van parked at a hotel overnight on Tuesday last week on Maesbury Road Industrial Estate was badly damaged but no thefts were reported.

Police were also called recently to bike thefts. One of the theft happened at around 11pm on August 10 when a man's silver Saracen mountain bike was taken from Swan Lane, Oswestry.

Polo contest to aid hospice



Major Will Mawby with Louise Bowen and Lynsey Kilvert from Hope House

HOPE House Children's Hospice is to benefit from a polo tournament.

The first ever Shropshire Charity Cup will be held at Moor Farm Polo Club in Baschurch on September 23.

The day kicks off with a fun bicycle polo game. A short grass tournament will begin at 11.30am. Teams of four can be entered at a cost of £100.

The highlight of the day will be a horse polo tournament at 2pm which will see four teams battle to become the first ever holders of the Shropshire Charity Cup.

Businesses can enter a team for £250 which must include a representative from the company. The polo club will provide up to two players free of charge and an auction will determine the final member of each team – a semi-professional player to complete the line-ups.

The day will centre around raising money for Hope House, based at Morda near Oswestry.

For further information contact polo manager Major Will Mawby or Major Terry Warburton on (01939) 262632.

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Developments could see housing shortage eased

Report by Jonny Drury

NORTH Shropshire's housing shortage could set to be eased as land with planning permission for 88 homes is to go on sale.

A development in Oak Street, Oswestry would see 24 apartments built close to the town centre and land at Weston Rhyn also has permission for 64 homes. Agents Halls Commercial said there has been significant interest in both plots.

James Evans, of Halls Commercial, said: "Shropshire is a desirable place to live because of its location and business opportunities. We see a lot of people from outside the county who want to move here and part of that attraction is how well Shropshire is doing economically. Commercially, the county is very much on the up right now and there are many job opportunities being created."

Good news on county's work front

THE number of people out of work in Shropshire fell by 40 last month, with new jobs being created in the retail, housing and industrial sectors.

Shropshire district, the area covered by Shropshire Council, saw the biggest drop in the jobless total, with the number out of work falling by 35 compared to the month before. Unemployment in the area now stands at 1,965.

In Telford & Wrekin, unemployment fell by five to 1,960.

Gareth Niblett, of Bridgnorth Job Centre welcomed the figures, saying it marked the continuation of a steady, downward trend in the number of people out of work.

"It has been a fairly consistent picture in Shropshire in the last few months, with steady, if small, drops in unemployment," he said. "It is positive that it is heading in the right direction."

Mr Niblett said 14 new support worker posts had recently been created by Choices Housing at a new independent living complex at Bicton in Shrewsbury.

Cosma Casting UK has also been recruiting for a new site in Telford, while Sainsbury's in Oswestry is also recruiting for a variety of roles, having so far taken on eight new staff.

Grant joy for design studio



Oswestry Mayor, Vince Hunt, hands a cheque for £850 to Ellie Lee from Designs in Mind

A DESIGN studio which helps people with mental health problems has been given a grant to continue its work.

The Designs in Mind organisation has first floor workshops and studios in Cross Street, Oswestry, and recently opened a two-week pop-up shop in the town.

An application to Oswestry Town Council for funding led to councillors agreeing to a grant of £850.

The money was presented to Ellie Lee, a volunteer member of Designs in Mind, by Oswestry Mayor Councillor, Vince Hunt.

He said that the group had a long established relationship with the council.

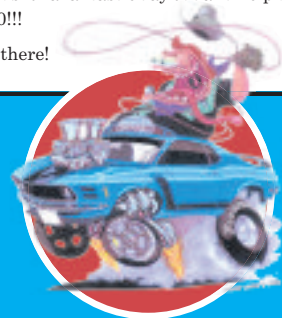
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The event takes place every August bank holiday, over 100 cars have already registered this year, it's a great day out for the whole family and there's loads of activities for all ages. Follow us on facebook as we excitedly count down the days and then come and join us for a fantastic day out and help us reach £100,000!!!

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less...HASSLE

BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

There's a row brewing in Welshpool with the Town Council proposing to ask Powys County Council to introduce a parking permit scheme for three streets – and it seems they haven't even consulted the residents. That's a bit unusual for the authority because the councillors normally jump at the chance of a consultation, a survey or even a referendum in the case of the current health debate regarding Shrewsbury and Telford hospitals. The council has long been debating parking problems in High Street and Mount Street where home owners have genuine complaints about not being able to park anywhere near their doorsteps and the town's Catholic Church has even joined in the debate. But Cobden Street has never been on any agenda that I have been aware of and at least one resident has demanded to know why he and his neighbours were not consulted before he read of the scheme in the local press. The scheme has been put forward by the council's planning committee and several other areas were considered but rejected it seems. It will be interesting to know why some residential areas, which are plagued with nuisance parkers, have been ignored. There is no doubt at all that Welshpool does have a parking problem. Since Tesco stopped allowing free parking, motorists have been seeking out every free space in the town to avoid paying in the three car parks. In fact the spacious Berriew Street Car Park is often almost deserted.

The best bit of news I have heard for some time is that the British Ironwork Centre's magnificent 26ft Knife Angel will eventually go on permanent display overlooking the A5 on the approach to Oswestry. What a sight that will be. Built by Clive Knowles and his team at the centre, the Angel is off on a national tour raising awareness of knife crime in the UK and will then prove to be a magnificent landmark for Oswestry. Mr Knowles is petitioning the Mayor in a bid to get permission for the monument displayed on the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square, but has been told it does not meet the criteria. He's planning a peaceful demonstration to point out to Mr Sadiq Khan just how appropriate the Knife Angel would be in the battle to rid London's streets of knife crime. I've just penned a letter to Mr Khan supporting proposals for the Knife Angel to go on display in Trafalgar Square and would encourage all Chronicle readers to do the same.



Police Chief Superintendent Charles Hill



The Knife Angel has been created in Shropshire



Clive Knowles and sculptor Alfie Bradley

Figures show the horror of county's knife crime

New statistics show that Shropshire is not spared the rise in knife crime. JORDAN REYNOLDS reports

IT is a crime associated with big cities – knives carried as a badge of honour by gangs increasingly being used in violent attacks.

Six of the eight victims killed in a current crimewave across the urban West Midlands were in their 20s – and some of the suspects in the cases are under the age of 18.

But figures released by West Mercia Police show that the national rise in knife possession and violent attacks is also reflected in Shropshire.

Officers are so concerned that they are launching a new campaign in which young people will be urged to hand in their knives at stations.

Trend

They fear the trend of carrying knives is spreading among young people as figures reveal that cases reported by police in the last year even include children as young as five.

Figures obtained by the Shropshire Star through a Freedom of Information request show that there were 147 knife-related crimes reported in our county between January and July this year.

Of those, 16 involved children under the age of 13.

Since January 2010, there have been more than 1,700 reports of knife crime in Shropshire.

And while the annual figure was 172



Figures show the national rise in knife crime is also reflected in Shropshire in 2013, it is likely to touch 300 for the whole of 2017.

Last year in Shropshire 18 of the knife crimes were children under the age of 13, which is double the amount in 2015.

In 2014 there were no knife crimes in which the suspect or offender was under 13.

The figures also show that the majority of cases of knife-related crime in Shropshire happen in Telford.

Since 2010, there have been 53 knife-related crimes in the county where the suspect or offender was under the age of 13, and 35 of those incidents were in Telford.

West Mercia Police Chief Superintendent Charles Hill admits rising knife crime figures can be alarming to the

public but that they should be considered in context.

He said: "We acknowledge, in line with national data, there has been an increase in reported knife crime in the county and we understand the concern this may cause to local people.

"Almost half of incidents in 2016/17 were personal disputes where offenders and victims were known to each other, often in a domestic setting or part of a drug-related dispute.

"The chances of falling victim to a knife crime at the hands of a stranger in the street are still small."

Supt Hill added that statistics have shown that those who carry a knife are more likely to be assaulted.

He said: "Anyone who thinks that carrying a knife will make them safer

needs to think again. Statistics show us that those who carry a knife are more likely to be assaulted.

"In September, we will be running another campaign aimed at tackling knife crime and raising awareness of the dangers and consequences of carrying knives.

"This will include a knife surrender that will give people the opportunity to surrender knives at police stations in Shropshire and Telford.

Analysis

"As part of this campaign we are also carrying out an analysis of knife crime in the county that will allow us to identify problem areas and target them with increased police activity and we will work with our partners to address problem areas and educate people about the dangers of carrying knives.

"Officers continue to use our stop and search powers to target those people who carry knives and arrest offenders.

"We ask the public to let us know of any concerns they may have or information about people carrying knives so that we can address this behaviour."

Created

One man not surprised by the statistics is Clive Knowles, whose British Ironwork Centre in Oswestry and sculptor Alfie Bradley, created the Knife Angel sculpture from weapons confiscated by police forces from around the country.

He says he wants to continue his work in promoting knife amnesties, aiming to get 250,000 weapons off the streets.

He said: "We've got a national crisis, we need to reverse this national blight that we've got.

"All over Europe is dealing with the same problem.

"Britain shouldn't be embarrassed about it."

WORKING FOR YOU



Each month the Office for National Statistics publishes data on the UK labour market. The latest UK unemployment figures, at 4.4 per cent, are at their lowest since 1975. By comparison, unemployment in France is 9.5 per cent and as high as 17.2 per cent in Spain. The UK figure equates to 1.48 million people who are not in work but are seeking and available for it. On the other hand there are 32.07 million people in work in the UK; there have never been so many British people in work. When I entered Parliament in 1997, the claimant rate in North Shropshire was 3.6 per cent and unemployment was around 4.5 per cent. The claimant count is now a low 1.1 per cent and unemployment is 2.9 per cent. I get emails, letters and tweets decrying zero-hours and temporary contracts but the evidence clearly shows that these types of contracts are a minority. Although there is no single agreed definition, the Labour Force Survey suggests that the number of people employed on zero-hours contracts in their main job, during October to December 2016, was 905,000; this amounts to less than three per cent of all people in employment.

People on zero-hours contracts are more likely to be young, part-time or in full-time education when compared with other people in employment. A flexible system allows employers and employees to choose their hours according to need. Before one of my staff began working for me in Westminster, he was delighted to be hired in his home town on a temporary contract. The job paid a good wage, enabled him to work abroad and taught him new skills in the workplace. Constituents have also been writing to me about the level of inflation. It is essential that a healthy economy enjoys low and steady inflation. The Government's target of two per cent plus or minus one percent is a well-established target for central banks around the world.

Inflation had been over 20 per cent in the mid-1970s, before Margaret Thatcher became Prime Minister in 1979. The rate has held steady last month at 2.6 per cent, well within the Government's inflation target.

A report by Economists for Free Trade to be released this autumn predicts that Britain's economy after Brexit could enjoy a boost worth £135 billion a year. Signing up to new trade deals and embracing free trade will benefit British exporters and our consumers.

Owen Paterson
North Shropshire MP

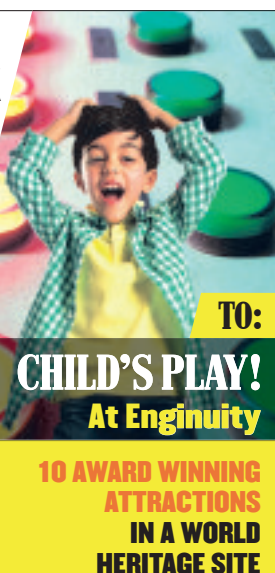
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Countries know what Brexit will mean

THE talks on leaving the European Union have only just begun and we already have the BBC telling us that things are not going well.

The British people voted on the 23rd June 2016 to leave the EU and we should, by now, have left. All this talk is simply about delaying matters to somehow turn things around and Theresa May is part of this plan. We should quite simply pull up the drawbridge and tell the clowns in Eu-

rope that there is no more money and we have left and then wait for the proverbial to hit the fan.

Mrs Merkel has already been warned by the German car manufacturers that if she does not agree an amicable arrangement with the UK they face the loss of over 18,000 jobs in their industry alone and a revenue loss of over six billion euros.

Can you even imagine the reaction of French farmers if the tankers full of wine,

champagne and so many other goods were stopped from entering the channel ports? The roads would be blocked from Dover to Rubish. The Dutch could not survive without their sales to us of billions of plants, flowers and cheese that flood through our docks on a daily basis.

We voted out so let us get out. Walk away!
ADRIAN WILLIAMS
Bratton

Inquiry must look at who is responsible for tragedy

THE appalling tragedy at Grenfell Tower now moves into months of technical discourse over the properties of building materials, and their suitability in public buildings.

Day by day, it becomes clearer that dreadful mistakes have been made and that urgent action is needed to avoid further tragedies.

However, one point must be made, and made quickly before technicalities obscure the real truth. That is that in the final analysis, politicians must be held responsible for the decisions that have contributed to the disastrous fire and the abysmally slow response to the plight of the victims.

It is right that Theresa May apologised for that failure, but the failures go much further than she suggests.

It is politicians who have dramatically reduced funding to local authorities year on year, leading not only to the weakening of civil society by reducing a wide range of services, but the impoverishment of some of the most vulnerable.

The regulatory departments in town halls throughout the nation will have felt the impact of those cuts, not forgetting that de-regulation is a proud boast of Tory politicians going back decades (and is one of the more articulate mantras of President Trump, by the way). Such cuts may seem a little abstract, but there will be fewer building inspectors than a decade ago, and those building inspectors still in post will have larger caseloads. Safety regulations keep people safe, and we need no more rhetoric about red tape stifling business. Lives before profits may be a useful mantra now.

Let's hope that the judge-led inquiry reveals the culpability of the responsible parties.

DAVID ASKINS
Lightmoor

PM may not last very long

AS with David Cameron and Theresa May, arrogance brings about the downfall of politicians, unwilling to answer questions, and cutting back on police numbers, armed forces, hospital beds, education, pensions, and a whole lot more hardly endears them to voters!

I am doubtful if Mrs May will even last six months, more likely days or weeks, given the amount of back stabbing from her own party. A verse from Gray's Elegy (1751) seems appropriate: "The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power, And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave, Awaits alike the inevitable hour. The paths of glory lead but to the grave."

W F KERSWELL
Picklescott

Greenhouse opened at specialist college



Head gardener at the Derwen College for the Disabled at Gobowen, Mr Iuan Pritchard, right, officially opens a new greenhouse at the college on May 8, 1981. Covering over 2,500 sq ft and costing £10,000, students were going to use it to grow flowers and vegetables for the college.

Is your eyesight good enough to keep on the road?

I HAVE a theory to reduce the number of cars on today's dangerous roads by some 10 per cent.

It may be controversial and it may upset my fellow septuagenarians and some octogenarians, but it could make roads safer.

My theory, for what it is worth, is based upon my experience with Shropshire Council's requirements for community bus drivers at 70 and every three years thereafter, to undergo a medical examination by a Department of Transport approved doctor, in order to continue driving.

I failed, due to my eyesight, but it was resolved by wearing glasses.

My understanding of the DVLA requirements to drive are 'You must wear glasses or contact lenses every time you drive if you need them to meet the standards of vision for driving'.

Therefore my point is, do not self certify that your eyesight meets the requirements when renewing your driving licence, without an optician's examination.

PETER HASSALL
Shifnal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Readers' Letters,
The Chronicle,
14 Salop Road,
Oswestry, SY11 2NU

EMAIL

iajn.stjohn@
shropshirestar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Pompous lords derailing politics

WHO do those pompous people in the House of Lords think they are? They say they intend to 'make it difficult' for some of the changes of Brexit! Their job is to help the country, and as the majority of the people voted out - that's basically what they should be doing. They are acting like a lot of spoilt brats throwing their dummies out of the pram - as they probably stand to lose some neat little perks. I hope the voters remember the names of the MPs who are trying to scupper Brexit.

G B DIPPER
Leominster

Many do not back the policies of government

MANY people do not support the policies of the current Government.

There are continual complaints about the reduction of police just as they are needed to attend to the unfortunate serious attacks.

And as for the health service, even the doctors resign because of the difficult conditions largely caused by lack of funds.

For climate change, the government has gone out of its way to discourage solar and wind power; they promote coal and fracking, which release more CO2 into the atmosphere when the rest of the world is desperately trying to cut it.

Caroline Lucas said: "Failing to take meaningful action on climate is a near-criminal act of political vandalism".

Her colleague said: "Staff and patients on the frontline are experiencing day in and day out the effects of a two pronged attack on our health service in the form of chronic underinvestment and privatisation".

PETER WRIGHT
Edgmond

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Village is ready to host events

THE flags and bunting will be out over August Bank Holiday weekend for two major village events. The village of Llansilin is holding the village sheep dog trails and the Village Show alongside the church open weekend.

The theme at St Silin's this year is Llansilin past and present.

Visitors are welcome to have a look around the church and its various exhibits.

Exhibits include memories of nearly 100 years of the Women's Institute, the story of the Girl Guides, old school log books and records of the First World War.

There will also be several archive films of past Llansilin events from as far back as the Dechrau Canu Dechrau Cannel of 1995 and the recent Cefn Gwlad film.

Refreshments will be available each day and there will be a few stalls, including a book stall and a raffle.

It's open each day across the weekend apart from an hour for the Sunday morning service.

Historical walk set to take place

A CHURCH is organising a walk which will tour a town's historical landmarks.

The walk around Oswestry will be led by Martin Hackett, author of Last Battlefields of Wales, and all proceeds will go to Hope Church's community fund.

It starts at the Marches School Car Park at 10am on September 2 and will finish around 4pm.

Entry is £10 and a light lunch will be provided.

For more information or to book a place, contact helen@hopechurchoswestry.org.uk or phone (01691) 655546.

Calls made for women to get top council roles

Report by Jonny Drury

NEW figures have shown that only one in four top positions on councils in Wales are held by women.

But councillors working in Mid Wales say their new female leader may encourage more women to come forward.

Around 26 per cent of positions within the cabinet on local authorities are held by females, figures from the Electoral Reform Society have shown, compared to 30 per cent on English councils.

In Wales Vale of Glamorgan and Blaenau Gwent councils have all white male cabinets. In Powys County Council, three women make up the cabinet, including councillors Rachel Powell, Myfanwy Alexander and leader Rosmarie Harris, who this year became the council's first female leader. Of the 73 county councillors, only 23 are women and that is something that needs to change – according to Newtown county councillor Joy Jones.

She wants to see more women in councillor roles and cabinet positions and says more needs to be done to encourage women to come forward at election time. She said: "I think there should be equal representation on the council now, it is essential that women's views are recognised."

"The suffragettes stood strong to get us a vote, and I think we should stand strong to get more females on the council."

"For me the cabinet is too male top heavy and that is something that needs to change because it has always been like that. As female councillors we need to show others that it is possible to get an equal amount of women on the council."

Knife Angel to come home after UK tour



Artist's impressions of how the Knife Angel will look when it comes home

DRIVERS heading into Oswestry will be welcomed by a 26ft angel sculpture made from more than 100,000 knives.

Owners of the British Ironwork Centre have revealed that, when the Knife Angel returns from a tour of the country to raise awareness of knife crime, it will stand in the grounds of the centre, overlooking the A5.

Clive Knowles, from the ironwork centre, has also confirmed plans for a spiral viewing platform, inspired by the Statue of Liberty.

Mr Knowles is currently petitioning the Mayor of London's office in a bid to get permission for the monument to be displayed on the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square.

"It's taken two and a half years to build and at the moment it's sitting ungraciously on the edge of the car park at the British Ironwork Centre waiting for London to gain some courage to allow it to fulfil its destiny," Mr Knowles said.

"But once it's finished having a voice and getting knife crime reduced, it will have a permanent home here in Shropshire."

Mr Knowles is planning a protest outside the mayor's office later this year with families involved in creating the statue.

Majority of machines now accept new £1 coin

THE majority of car parking machines across Shropshire can now accept the new £1 coin.

Despite the coin becoming legal tender in March and the old £1 coin being phased out of general release, Shropshire Council has had to wait to get all of its on-street pay and display parking meters, as well as the machines in the council run car parks across the county, converted.

It had said that the machines would be up, running and ready to accept the new coin by the end of July.

The council has now announced that all of the on-street machines as well as the machines in the car parks in Shrewsbury, including those at St Julian's Friar's, Frankwell, St Austin's Street, Abbey Foregate, Bridge Street and Raven Meadows have now been converted to accept the new 12-sided coin.

In Ludlow, the machines in all of Shropshire Council's car parks now accept the new £1 coin and works to on-street parking machines to allow them to accept the new £1 coin were due to be completed by the end of yesterday. In Bridgnorth, the machines in the Sainsbury's, Innage Lane and Listley Street car parks accept the new £1 coin and in Much Wenlock the machines in all Shropshire Council car parks will also accept the new coin.

In Church Stretton the machines in all Shropshire Council car parks can take the coin.

The authority has said that all remaining machines will be converted shortly. Once the machines have been switched over to accept the new coin they will no longer accept the old version. The old coin will go out of circulation on October 15.

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Health food bar is set to create more jobs in town

WORK has begun on a new health food bar that will create up to six jobs.

The Meat Man, run by Tom Brown in Oswestry, is expanding to open a health food bar called 'Heat'.

Health food cafes and bars have been popping up all over the UK in recent years and The Meat Man was keen to get involved.

Tom said the new cafe, in Willow Street, will bring six town centre jobs, including one chef, and he is hopeful of opening the shop in mid September.

He also part owns Active 8 gym in Oswestry and wants all three businesses to work alongside each other.

He said: "It is all part of the Meat Man and will go together with the gym. There was a huge gap in the market in Oswestry, there is nothing like this and Oswestry needs something."

"We've done our research and from what people of Oswestry have been telling me it is what the people want."

"There is demand there and we are confident it can be a success."

Tom and his father Phil started the Meat Man in 2009, and Tom took over on his own when his father retired two years.

Currently he employs 19 staff at the Meat Man base at the top of Willow Street and the latest venture will take him up to 25 workers.

He said he prides himself on being a good local employer, and said if this latest project takes off there could be more ideas in the pipeline.

He said: "We've got a good local bunch of staff working for us and it was the right time to increase the business. We've won awards and shown we are a good company to work for, and we are growing all the time."

Police chief to invest £2 million in CCTV network

Report by Jonny Drury

TOWNS across Mid Wales including Welshpool will benefit from a commitment to re-invest £2 million into CCTV cameras.

Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime commissioner Dafydd Llewellyn has reversed a decision made by the former commissioner regarding CCTV and has made a pledge to re-install systems in 14 towns.

The pledge was discussed at a recent meeting of the Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Panel, where Mr Llewellyn committed to the job.

The project will include Ceredigion, Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Powys. In Powys, Welshpool and Newtown will benefit alongside Llandrindod Wells, Builth Wells, and Brecon.

Plaid Cymru's Mr Llewellyn said: "It's very important that the £2m investment achieves the best result possible."

"To get it right means we are rolling the project out county by county, starting with Carmarthenshire."

"We will review and learn as we go, so that the time and money spent over next four years serves our counties long beyond the end of the project duration."

Mr Llewellyn has set up a team of specialists to take on the project. CCTV was shunned by the former commissioner, Conservative Christopher Salmon which Mr Llewellyn said has made the project a little more difficult.

He said: "The timescale is difficult because I inherited the previous budget, however I am planning a £2million investment in CCTV."

Farmer comes up with bright idea



David Jones from Hafod Renewables with David and Anna Taylor

A FARMER who grew up in Shropshire is enjoying growing success with a range of organic ice cream made using solar power.

Chilly Cow is the brainchild of farmer's wife and mum of two Anna Taylor who launched her venture three years ago and now supplies more than 50 outlets across North and Mid Wales and Cheshire.

The milk comes from the herd of 80 pedigree Brown Swiss cows farmed by husband David and his dad, Jim, in the Vale of Clwyd at Llanychan, near Ruthin.

The power for the processes of churning and freezing comes in part from 71 solar panels installed by Denbigh-based green energy firm Hafod Renewables across the south-facing roofs of three of the farm buildings.

Anna was born in The Three Pigeons at Nesscliffe near Oswestry, where her grandfather was the landlord.

The 37-year-old, who was brought up in Kinnerley near Oswestry, said: "The idea to make ice-cream was one that we took over a cup of tea and so I did some research and made some at home and because our milk is very high in butterfat it is excellent for ice cream."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Charity shop in volunteer call

A CHARITY shop is offering voluntary work to students who have just finished college or university.

Rose Morris, manager of the Age UK furniture shop in Oswestry, is giving students the chance to gain work experience in the retail sector.

The role is aimed at people over the age of 18 who are having a break from college or university, taking a gap year, or have just graduated, bosses have said.

The local charity is specifically looking for volunteers who enjoy meeting people, can offer good customer service and be available to do a minimum of one shift a week.

People interested in volunteering at the charity shop in Oswestry should speak to Rose at the shop in Festival Square or call (01691) 238020.

Wildlife group to carry out survey

A NEW wildlife group is conducting a survey to establish the amount of rare lapwings and curlews in its area.

The Three Parishes Community Wildlife Group was inspired to carry out the survey following a talk from bird expert Leo Smith at a recent meeting.

The group is now appealing for anyone who has knowledge of either lapwings or curlews to help with the research which takes place in Gobowen, Selattyn and Weston Rhyn.

On September 21, the group will meet at Chirk Castle for a bat detecting session. This will be an opportunity to see and hear a large colony of bats that roost in the laundry at the castle.

If you are interested in attending the meeting or can help with the group's research, contact Polly Smith on (01691) 239087, 07938 693561 or email: polly.j.smith@hotmail.co.uk



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Moreton Hall



NEWS IN BRIEF

Community scheme helps

A VOLUNTEER car scheme is helping people to do things others take for granted and prevent them becoming reliant on social services.

Welsh Assembly Member Russell George visited the Welshpool-based, North Montgomeryshire Volunteer Bureau to hear about its community car scheme.

He met volunteers to discuss the scheme which helps vulnerable people get out into the community to access services, from helping people do their shopping to attending appointments.

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact the bureau on (01938) 554484.

Green flag prize for nature area

A POPULAR nature reserve has won the coveted Green Flag Award.

Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust's Severn Farm Pond Nature Reserve in Welshpool has been recognised for its excellent facilities and commitment to delivering quality green space in Wales.

The proud volunteers who meet weekly to keep the site safe, accessible and inspiring for people and wildlife, celebrated their achievement on Wednesday this week with a tea and cake event.

The Green Flag Award scheme is delivered in Wales by environmental charity, Keep Wales Tidy, with support from Welsh Government.

It is judged by green space experts, who volunteer their time to visit applicant sites and assess them against eight strict criteria.

Consultation to be held over key plans strategy

Report by Sue Austin

PUBLIC consultation over the future development of Powys will take place over a six-week period starting in mid-September, the county council has said.

Wind farms and new housing are likely to be among the items coming under the spotlight.

The county's new Local Development Plan has been the subject of public hearings since the end of March with the final session taking place on July 21.

Potential changes to the plan that were raised during the sessions must be published for public consultation and the Planning Inspector has agreed that will take place between September 19 and October 30.

Cabinet member for regeneration, Councillor Martin Weale said: "We have agreed with the Planning Inspector to provide information to the county's town and community councils and hold three public engagement sessions during the six week consultation period."

"All comments that are received from the consultation will be forwarded to the Inspector for her consideration and depending on the issues raised she will decide whether or not further hearings are necessary."

The council does not have dates or venues for the public engagement sessions at this stage, although it is likely that they will be in each shire.

Venue switch for theatre company



Members of the theatre company have been rehearsing for the show

AFTER more than 60 years of performing at Buttington and Trewern Community Centre the Buttington Musical Theatre Company has this year made the decision to hold this year's performances at the Town Hall in Welshpool.

This year's production of The Pajama Game is to take place on Wednesday, October 11, Thursday, October 12 and Friday, October 13.

Rehearsals are well underway for the production.

The Pajama Game is a book by George Abbott and Richard Bissell.

Tickets are now on sale for the production.

The tickets to the show cost £8 for adults and £5 for children.

They are available from Welshpool Tourist Information Centre and the centre can be contacted by calling (01938) 553286.

The tickets are also available from Reflections Hairdressers on (01938) 553128, Sue Williams on (01938) 553286 and Julie Prince on (01938) 552053 as well as cast members and on the door.

Panel set up to scrutinise the work of police chief

A NEW panel has been set up to scrutinise the work of Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner Dafydd Llewellyn.

The newly-formed Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Panel held its first meeting recently, and will meet every three months.

At the first meeting Ceredigion County Councillor Alun Lloyd Jones was elected as chair, and professor Ian Roffe was installed as vice chair.

The new panel is made up of members nominated by the four councils in the force area - Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Powys - and at least two independent members.

The new panel was appointed following the county council elections in May.

Its powers and responsibilities include reviewing the commissioner's crime plan.

The body will also look at the commissioner's annual draft budget and scrutinise decisions and actions taken by the commissioner.

The meetings are open to the press and public, and with the prior permission of the chair, people can ask questions or make a statement in relation to a matter being considered by the panel, with the exception of personnel matters.

Questions can also be submitted to the panel either in writing or via the website contact form.

Information about the new panel, agendas, meeting dates, membership and news is available online at www.dppoliceandcrimepanel.org.uk.



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Crackdown on drug trafficking

POLICE in Mid Wales have held a major crackdown on drug use.

The Serious and Organised Crime Team of Dyfed-Powys Police has been conducting a drug trafficking investigation.

Following a number of drug-related deaths over the past couple of years, predominantly in Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion, the force set up Operation Ulysses to tackle the scourge of these drugs and to prevent further tragedies.

In the past couple of months, the operation entered the arrest phase, where Dyfed-Powys Police officers were supported by the National Crime Agency during this action.

To date, 22 individuals have been charged with conspiracy to supply Class A drugs.

Homes group's £1m investment

MORE than £1 million has been invested in properties by a housing association.

Mid Wales Housing said 19 homes were allocated during the year and £3.3m was spent on providing new homes.

Also in the year, 24 homes were constructed and £9,000 was spent on community development.

The association outperformed its budget according to its report and its income has continued to grow, reflecting the increased number of homes the association now manages.

The total rent and service charge income for 2016-17 was £7m, while the surplus achieved was £960,000.

In the report, chairman David Evans announced he was stepping down having served on the board for 11 years, along with four other long-standing members.

Chance to have say on the future of baby units

Report by Sophie Madden

EVENTS are to be held across Shropshire for people to give feedback on the future of rural midwife-led units.

The events are the next stage of a review of the units by Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group, and Telford & Wrekin CCG.

Details are now being finalised for a set of community workshops and people are being asked to save the date and make a note of the venues.

Oswestry, Bridgnorth and Ludlow midwife-led units (MLUs) have been shut since July 1 with an on-call service expected to be in place for the next three to six months.

The move follows months of maternity service staffing issues and fears raised by campaigners over the smaller rural units' long-term future. Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust has said the temporary closures have been put in place to make sure Telford's Princess Royal Hospital's consultant-led unit can be safely staffed.

A shortage of staff at the trust has meant the three MLUs have all faced short-term closures in recent months.

Events will now be held where people can give their feedback on how they think the services should work in the future.

The first will be on September 14, at The Whole Life Christian Centre in Cabin Lane, Oswestry.

It will be held from 10am to 12.30pm.

The programme of community workshops aims to give people who have experience of the service at the midwife-led units a chance to be part of discussions and feedback.

Student dreams up winning design



Connor Phillips from Llanfyllin with his winning design project

A STUDENT from Shrewsbury Sixth Form College has been awarded first place in a regional competition held by the Rotary Club for design and innovation.

Connor Phillips, 18, from Llanfyllin, entered the Rotary Club Young Innovator competition earlier this month and won himself first place in the West Midlands regional final.

Connor studied A Levels in product design and film studies and applied science BTEC, and first heard about the competition through the college.

The competition gives students from all over the West Midlands the opportunity to showcase their design and technology coursework.

Connor said: "I had to design a display board to show the processes that I used to build my product and talk about it. I showcased my Modular Media Unit to a variety of judges and to members of the public. My project was created with two units that slotted together and incorporated mood lighting and a bluetooth speaker to use as a coffee table."

Connor has since successfully secured his place at Sheffield Hallam University in September. He is studying product design.

MP calls for action over fixed-odds bet games

THE government should be taking more action to tackle gambling problems according to an MP.

Clwyd South MP Susan Elan Jones wants to see the government drastically reduce the stakes allowed on fixed-odds betting terminals from £100 to £22.

She said they are the 'crack cocaine of gambling' and changes need to be made. She said: "I am really concerned about this issue and its impact on families and individuals. In the last Parliament, I was very involved in a campaign to get controls over fixed-odds betting terminals devolved to the Welsh Government. Although the UK Government would not do this at first, our persistent campaigning did finally get them to include partial devolution in the Wales Bill."

"I want the entire UK to be covered by laws that mean stakes on fixed-odds betting terminals are reduced from the staggering £100 a stake which is legal now down to £22."

"All of us who have campaigned on this issue know the misery that fixed-odds betting terminals can cause, with casino games like roulette allowing punters to stake £100 every 20 seconds."

"That is £50 million being lost to fixed-odds betting terminals in Wales alone. No wonder fixed-odds betting terminals are often called the 'crack cocaine' of gambling."

The UK Government is currently considering responses from the Call for Evidence into Gaming Machines and Social Responsibility launched in October 2016.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is expected to publish the next stage of the review, with its proposals, this October.

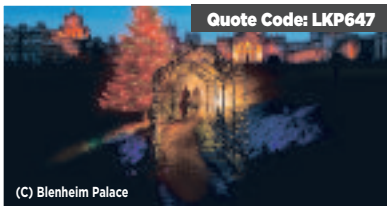
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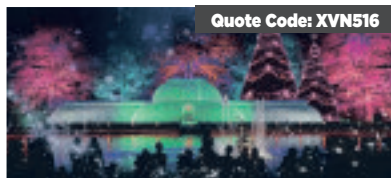
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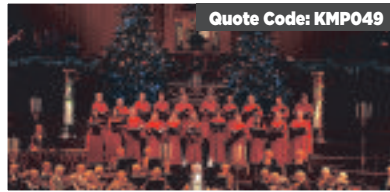
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Public is consulted about rights of way

KEEN walkers are being asked to get involved in a consultation.

Wrexham Council is looking at the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan and is asking for people's suggestions as to how things could be improved.

These rights of way include the World Heritage Site at Pontcysyllte Aqueduct near Oswestry, and the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The council has launched a survey to find out what people's priorities are, if they want more information on where the routes are, or if they think there should be new public rights of way introduced. Councillor David Bithell, lead member for environment and transport, said: "We know the Public Rights of Way across Wrexham get a lot of good use and people consider them an excellent asset – and they're a great way to explore our fantastic surroundings."

Find the survey at yourvoicewrexham.net

Railway backs 1940s weekend

IF you saw this line-up of people on a Mid Wales station platform today you would think you had stepped back in time.

That is exactly what will happen next month as Welshpool and Llanfair Light Railway steps back over 70 years for the annual Welshpool 1940s weekend running from September 29 to October 1.

The event has continued to grow in the last two years, and will further expand with the introduction of the railway into the weekend line-up.

Both Welshpool and Llanfair stations will be involved in the event with singers, displays and re-enactors platforms to bring the 1940s to life.

A number of activities will take place and a vintage Crossville bus will link Welshpool Town Centre with the Raven Square station.

Station general manager Charles Spencer said: "Passenger trains with goods wagons attached will represent the important agricultural traffic that the railway carried all through the 1940s, and a military goods train will be hauled by ex-Ministry of Defence diesel engine 'Ferret' built in 1940."



A group of 1940s re-enactors at Llanfair Caereinion railway station get ready for the special weekend

Technician takes up role at town firm

TELECOMS company Ocean Telecom has appointed a specialist technician.

Chris Spriggs has joined the firm to provide IT and telecoms support after moving into the area from his home town of Bradford. Based at the firm's Oswestry office, he will work with support manager Robin Talbot to provide clients with technical support on all types of issues involving mobile, broadband, hosted IP, fixed phone lines and IT hardware.

Mr Talbot said: "Chris is already proving to be a key member of our team and we are really impressed with his broad range of skills and ability to get customers up-and-running very quickly."

Mr Spriggs added: "I'm delighted to be working with one of the longest established telecoms firms in Shropshire. This role is very similar to the one I enjoyed previously, so I'm glad I can bring my skills here at a time when the company is growing."

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Fundraisers set to tackle mountain

Report by Aimee Jones

A CLINICAL support worker at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital and his daughter are preparing to take on the challenge of a lifetime in memory of an old friend.

Stuart Royce, 51, who has worked in the Spinal Injuries Unit at the hospital for more than 30 years, will attempt to reach the summit of the largest free-standing mountain in the world – Mount Kilimanjaro, alongside daughter Jessica Royce, 26.

The father and daughter double-act fly out to Africa in mid-September and will spend five days trekking in a bid to reach the summit, and a further two to get down again, all in aid of Fight Bladder Cancer and the Severn Hospice.

They are taking on the epic pursuit in memory of their late family friend Brian Worrall, who died at the age of 54, in July 2015, after losing his battle to bladder cancer.

Stuart, who lives in Oswestry, said: "With Brian being such an extraordinary and resilient man, we felt it was only right that whatever we'd do to raise funds in his memory had to be something as special as he was. He was a real one-off."

"Brian suffered a spinal injury whilst serving in the Parachute Regiment in Belize, which ended his career. This left him partially paralysed having to adapt to living in a wheelchair. However, this didn't stop Brian, as he became heavily involved in wheelchair sports and swam for Great Britain in the Seoul Paralympics in 1988, where he achieved a silver medal.

"He then went on to coach the GB wheelchair rugby team and he was the European Development Officer for



Brian Worrall's widow Anne with fundraiser Stuart Royce

wheelchair rugby promoting the sport in Europe. He took the GB team to the Atlanta Paralympics in 1996.

"Brian was an inspiration to so many people and he and his family are dear family friends of mine and my family, so doing this for him feels right."

Stuart said the challenge is also important in order to raise awareness for bladder cancer, as well as thank Severn Hospice staff for their support in Brian's final days, when they assisted

his family in making him feel as comfortable as he could.

Brian's widow Anne Worrall, who has just retired from her post as matron at the hospital after almost 30 years of service, said Stuart and Jessica's efforts to remember Brian "mean the world" to her family.

To sponsor Stuart and Jessica, you can do so via <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/fundraiser/showFundraiserProfilePage.action?userUrl=climb4bri>.

E-fit released in robbery bid case



The image of the suspect

POLICE have issued an e-fit image of a woman in relation to an attempted robbery near Oswestry.

The victim, a man in his 30s, was travelling from Oswestry towards Glyn Ceiriog along the B4580 at about 8.30pm on June 7.

On an unnamed road just off the crossroads signposted for the racecourse, he saw a woman looking distressed walking in his direction where a blue Ford Focus was parked in a layby.

He stopped to speak to the woman and

it is at this point that someone, believed to be a man, opened his driver side door and restrained him with his seat belt.

The woman opened the passenger door and the victim believed they were going to steal from him. He managed to drive off without anything being stolen.

The woman was white, around 5ft 8 ins in height, of a slim build with blonde hair. She was wearing a blue puffa style jacket and had what is believed to be a European accent. There is no description of the other unknown offender, believed to be male.

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Llandysilio Church in Wales School pupils took part in various projects



Children at Llandysilio Church in Wales School were working hard before the holidays



Llandysilio School pupils show their gardening skills

Happy days at schools

Report by Sue Austin

SCHOOL pupils were kept busy with a wide variety of activities in the weeks leading up to the end of the summer term.

More than 80, Year 6 pupils at Woodside School in Oswestry celebrated their last days of school with a fun day organised by Severnsports with the help of Go Kart Party.

The day included multi-activities including ball sports, go-karting, rounders and a bouncy castle.

The fun was organised by the newly-named Severnsports, formerly Sports Jam Education, who have been working with Woodside School for three years to deliver PE lessons and after-school clubs.

Meanwhile, children at a primary school on the Shropshire/Powys border have had a busy couple of months.

From keeping up with their Welsh studies to planting 90 sunflowers in the church garden, pupils at Llandysilio Church in Wales School in Four Crosses, have enjoyed a jam-packed itinerary.

Headteacher Amanda Williams said as well as excelling in the classroom, pupils have also been celebrating success outside of school, with children achieving in swimming, as well as having one pupil coming first in a cycling competition, when he represented the school.

A forest school area is also being developed. The development of the outdoor school comes as the school was awarded £10,000 from the Tesco Bags for Life scheme, and when completed, the community will be able to make use of the area.



Llandysilio Church in Wales School pupils have been busy learning Welsh



There were plenty of smiles at Woodside School



Woodside School pupils enjoyed a fun day before the end of term



Woodside School pupils enjoyed go-karting



Pupils at Oswestry's Woodside School took part in fun sports events



The town of Welshpool is a great place to visit and to enjoy a bit of retail therapy

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Commercial feature

to visitors and locals alike. Sitting just four miles from the Shropshire border, Welshpool attracts visitors from near and far.

Many visitors come to the area to learn more about its history and heritage.

The town was initially known as Pool but its name was changed to Welshpool in 1835 to distinguish it from the English town of Poole.

The town contains much Georgian architecture and is just north of Powis Castle.

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Budding opera stars to perform

THE North Wales Opera Studio will be performing at Llanfyllin's historic Y Dolydd workhouse.

Members of the group, directed by international soprano Anne Williams-King, will perform a selection of well-loved arias and ensemble pieces by Verdi, Mozart, Puccini and others in the Boys' Courtyard. The performers have been described as young, enthusiastic singers setting out on a professional career.

Opera-goers are invited to bring a garden chair and a picnic, or order a hamper by emailing zarenaallan@btinternet.com or calling 07792 879819. A bar and light refreshments will be available at the event on Saturday. Tickets priced £8 are on sale at Spar Llanfyllin, Gegin Fach Llanrhaeadr YM, Siop Erianfa Penybont-fawr or www.skiddle.com/12936348.

Numbers for the 7pm show are limited.

Get a taste of war at historic castle

THERE'S a chance this summer to see what it would have been like to be a scout in the First World War.

The training camp at Powis Castle in Welshpool features an assault course, and a semaphore flag signalling system.

Vintage uniforms are also on show and there's a chance to show your first aid skills.

Scouts came forward in huge numbers to help the British effort during the First World War and they took on many different roles, helping release men from their jobs so they could sign up to serve in the military.

The Powis Training Camp will run daily throughout the summer holidays, until September 3.

The camp will be the final push of events to mark the castle's First World War story which ends on November 5.

Delighted students and staff celebrate superb exam results



Lauren Jones, Nia Garry, Jonathan Jones, David Sinclair and Mollie Delooze celebrate at The Marches School



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Alicia Holland and Molly Ashworth from Moreton Hall



North Shropshire College's Josh Biggs and Josh Baldwin



Hayley Martin and Dominic Fisher from Oswestry School

THE tense waiting was over and the celebrations began when students received their A Level results.

The Marches Sixth Form in Oswestry celebrated another year of outstanding results.

More students than ever achieved the highest grades with 22 per cent at A* and A – which meant many got into the country's finest universities.

Top student Jonathan Jones achieved four A* grades in maths, further maths, physics and chemistry, and gained a place at St John's College, Cambridge to study natural sciences.

And David Sinclair is heading off to the University of Manchester to study civil engineering after he achieved two A* grades and an A.

The new style of A Levels didn't

Report by Aimee Jones

pose a problem for Oswestry School students with a quarter of all papers awarded A or A*.

Results showed half of the exams taken were given A* to B grades, with an overall pass-rate of 98 per cent.

Hayley Martin from Newtown secured two A*s and an A in biology, chemistry and mathematics and will now go on to York University to study biomedical sciences.

Straight A student Dominic Fisher from Oswestry plans to study international relations at Exeter University after his success in design, economics and history.

Moreton Hall reported a vintage year of results with a third of all students achieving straight A* or A grades.

More than half of all the papers

taken at the independent school near Weston Rhyn achieved the top two grades.

Top girl Phoebe Jackson has taken her place at Cambridge to read engineering after getting three A*s and an A in her chosen subjects.

Principal Jonathan Forster said he was delighted with the results.

North Shropshire College celebrated its last ever A Level results day – and students did not disappoint.

The Oswestry-based college, which also has a campus in Walford, is set to become a vocational specialist college, meaning this year is the last group to take A Levels. Peter McCann, principal and chief executive for NSC said: "The results for the college's final year of A Levels have been impressive and we are very pleased to announce that 15 out of the 18 A Level courses that were available had a 100 per cent pass rate."

Swimathon challenge laid down by friends group



Oswestry Mayor Vince Hunt is backing the league of friends' swimathon challenge

THE League of Friends to Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital is working with Freedom Leisure Group to encourage beginners and experienced swimmers to take part in its charity Swimathon campaign.

Until the end of October, selected Freedom Leisure Group swimming pools are offering concessionary rates to swimathon entrants.

The League of Friends group has launched summer fun challenges to be taken up for the summer holidays. Published on its website, <http://www.friendsrjah.org.uk/rjah-swimathon-2017/> the league is encouraging summer swimming with innovative ways to complete its swimathon fundraising appeal.

The Mayor of Oswestry Vince Hunt showed

his support for the swimathon at the charity's recent summer fete. Freedom Leisure Group attended the fete to share its sporting knowledge and encourage recruits for the league's swimming challenges. To take part in the League of Friends to RJAHS Swimathon 2017 call (01691) 404401 or e-mail league.friends@rjah.nhs.uk



Beginners and experienced swimmers are needed for the swimathon

Meanwhile the orthopaedic hospital has released a video on social media to encourage nominations to its Patient Choice Award. The short video features last year's winner and is encouraging people to send in nominations.

The video can be found on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/RJAH.NHS/videos/1584162384941053/>

Police boss warning to vigilantes

A POLICE chief has warned would-be vigilantes not to get involved in "hunting" paedophiles.

West Mercia police and crime commissioner John Campion said while citizen groups may have the best of intentions, vigilantes can do more harm than good by damaging on-going investigations and can put themselves – or even the children they are trying to protect – at risk.

His comments come after the former head of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Agency, Jim Gamble, described incidents of online child sexual abuse as a "tsunami" which he said was "almost overwhelming" for his former colleagues, and suggested volunteers be recruited in a "special digital detectives programme."

Unregulated groups of adults who pose online as underage children to catch paedophiles already exist but police have raised concerns with some of the tactics used by such groups, including posting videos of the stings online.

The Home Office has declined to comment on Mr Gamble's suggestion, but warned against citizens acting as amateur detectives, saying: "The issues of child protection understandably matters greatly to people, but they should allow the police and law enforcement agencies to do their vital work by not taking the law into their own hands."

Mr Campion echoed those sentiments. He said: "West Mercia Police do not condone vigilantism and I agree with this approach."

Villagers are to take over local centre

A VILLAGE is to take on the upkeep of its community centre.

The Llanwddyn Community Centre Committee has launched a fundraising campaign as it is about to take on an all-repairing lease from Powys Council Council for the building.

Ruth Powell, committee secretary, said the council had wanted to close the building down due to lack of finances available.

"They have neglected the building for some years and our first job is to raise enough money to replace the roof which is massive," she said.

To help raise funds the committee is holding a special 'NASA' evening in August and its annual folk and acoustic weekend on September 1 and 2. For the NASA evening on August 26, Jerry Bostick of NASA's Mission Control during the 1960s and 70s will give a talk in the hall.

One of the unsung heroes of the space race, he was one of the characters in the Apollo 13 film.

More information and tickets are available from www.llanwddynenvents.co.uk or call (01691) 870501 for all information including how to purchase your tickets.

College launches training course

NORTH Shropshire College's Oswestry campus will launch a new course in September, the BTEC Level 5 Diploma in Education and Training.

The course, which begins on September 12, is an addition to the education and training portfolio programmes at the college, designed to support and encourage new teachers and trainers in education.

Programme leader Daryll Griffiths has over 30 years' experience in education and training in the further and higher education sectors.

"The programme is designed to support new teachers and trainers who are currently working in industry in their academic and professional studies," he said. "It will support new teachers in their personal and professional development."

People interested in the course can apply online via the college website at www.nsc.ac.uk

Governors Rewards given to top achieving students



The Year 10 top ten reward point earners are recognised for their work



The Year 8 top ten reward point earners celebrate their achievements

Report by Aimee Jones

THE Marches School in Oswestry welcomed students and their families to the seventh annual Governors Rewards event to celebrate the top 10 students of each year group who earned the most rewards points this academic year.

Year 9 student Immie Dean opened the event with a musical performance on the piano, shortly followed by a welcome from associate assistant headteacher Miss Joanna Phillips.

Presentations were then given to all top 10 reward point earners in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10.

The Rewards Shield was then awarded to the student who earned the most reward points in the whole school by vice chair of the local governing body, Mark Liquorish. The shield was won by Year 9 student Rebecca Owen who won a total of 1,534 points this academic year.

Rebecca's form tutor Patrick Jennings said: "Rebecca is an amazing student to have in form. She tirelessly helps others with her work as an LRC ambassador, as well as volunteering at a choir club for primary pupils. Rebecca is a great ambassador for the school and has gladly taken on the role of introducing a form member to the school as well as helping out on open evenings." He continued: "Rebecca has a packed extra-curricular schedule with MD Warriors, Scouts and Stagecoach Performing Arts. I'm constantly impressed with Rebecca's enthusiasm, politeness and kindness."



Year 9 student Rebecca Owen with her Rewards Shield



The Year 7 top ten reward point earners at The Marches School celebrate



The Year 9 top ten reward point earners at the Marches School



John Walker and Sandra Walker enjoyed the occasion



Darren Genge, Alison Genge, Cara Bennett and Jason Bennett



Pauline Higgins and Faruk Higgins attended the hospice event

Supporters have a ball!

Report by Jonny Drury

THE annual Hope House Shropshire Ball raised £30,000 for the children's hospice at Morda, Oswestry.

A live auction, conducted by television antiques expert Jeremy Lamond, of leading county auctioneers Halls, raised a third of the total while an online auction was also hugely successful.

A Mad Hatter's Tea Party theme for the ball added to the fun.

Libby Edwards played the Queen of Hearts and Stuart Loughland was the Mad Hatter.

The Venue was The Lion Quays Waterside Resort, near Oswestry.

Other fundraising activities have been held in recent weeks for the hospice.

A Shropshire border football club has raised £1,000 for the hospice.

Llanymynech FC who play in the Montgomeryshire League held an auction at the end of the season.

Further to this the club will be displaying the charity logo on their shirts for the new season.

A host of prizes were donated from local businesses in and around the Oswestry area.

The auction is something the club is looking to do on a yearly basis.

Joe Evans, one of the players who is involved in the running of the club, said: "Lots of prizes were donated by local businesses from Oswestry Golf Club and The Station Grill to name a few which helped raise the money."

Pictures: Russell Davies



Chloe Evans, Lynsey Kilvert, Amy Redman and Vicki Owen enjoy the fun



Ryan Walsh, Beth Morris and Peter Morris attended the Hope House Hospice fundraiser



Carl Alexander, Danielle Barrett, Lesley Head and Ray Hoof



Libby Edwards and Stuart Loughland



Marc Coulson, Kate Dunn, Kari Cartledge and Nick Orchard get together

PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

21
Oswestry & Border Chronicle
Thursday, August 24, 2017

Converted barn enjoys spacious accommodation

Situated in a semi-rural setting, adjoining other residential and agricultural units, Little Wootton Barn, Queens Head, near Oswestry, is readily accessible from the A5 trunk road.

Ready access is therefore available to the nearby county towns of Shrewsbury, Wrexham and Chester. Oswestry is the nearby market town and offers a broad selection of both independent and high street retail outlets and also benefits from Oswestry School. Moreton Girls School, Adcote Girls School and Ellesmere College are also nearby. The property is on the market through Morris Marshall and Poole for £400,000. The L-shaped converted barn affords spacious accommodation, in part on two levels.

The property's kitchen has recently been refitted with a full range of "Schuller" units affording ash built cupboards and granite work surfaces. A feature brick inglenook houses the range and the cottage style includes the exposed joinery to walls and ceiling.

The splash areas are fully tiled and the floor is tiled to accord and extends through the open approach into a breakfast room. The lounge has a solid timber finished floor, exposed joinery to the vaulted ceiling, dual aspect with doors opening to the fore and rear courtyard and feature fireplace housing the oil-fired stove. There is also a cloakroom, inner hallway, reception room, conservatory, study and entrance hall.

The master bedroom enjoys a triple aspect with door off the front approach, exposed ceiling beams and an extensive range of fitted wardrobe and drawer units with dressing table to two walls. Access leads through to an en-suite bathroom.

There are four further bedrooms, two en-suite bathrooms and a family bathroom.

Outside an approach off the roadway leads to the paved forecourt fronting the property providing both parking and turning area and access to the single garage and double garage.

KEY FEATURES

Spacious accommodation

Three reception rooms

Large rear conservatory

One double and one single garage

Double glazing and central heating

QUEENS HEAD £400,000



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Morris Marshall and Poole

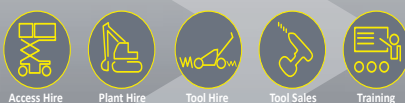
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Four bedroom family home offers spacious living

GOBOWEN
£164,950

Town and Country in Oswestry is delighted to offer to the market, 12 Trinity Close, Gobowen, a superb property which is not what it seems.

Stop and look again because once inside this spacious four bedroom family home you will be captivated by every detail which has been carefully thought through and beautifully presented.

The property is on the market for £164,950. Accommodation comprises entrance hall, living room, kitchen/dining area, cloakroom, first floor landing, master bedroom with en-suite, three further bedrooms, study, bathroom and second floor landing.

To the front of the property is a paved and slate area with parking for two cars. The rear garden is all enclosed by wooden fencing, with a paved patio entertainment area, pebbled surround, steps leading



to a raised garden area, wooden gate to the side of the property leading to the front of the property, outside lighting and an outside tap.

The living room has wood effect flooring, windows to the front, modern wall mounted electric fire, coved ceiling, radiator, telephone and TV point.

The kitchen area has a good range of base and wall fitted units.

The dining area has tiled flooring, a patio door to the rear garden and a radiator.

Viewing is highly recommended to appreciate this property and its convenient location.

Contact Town and Country in Oswestry on 01691 679631 or visit www.townandcountryoswestry.com



Recently completed four bedroomed barn conversion offers 'wow' factor

KYNASTON
£549,950

>>>>

Packed with the "wow factor", Treginford Barn in the hamlet of Kynaston near Kinnerley is a recently completed four bedroom barn conversion within equidistance of some 10 miles to Oswestry and Shrewsbury.

It is for sale through Balfours at £549,950. Agent, Duncan Scobie, of Balfours said: "This is an exceptionally well designed conversion. While it dates back to the mid-1800s, its' recently completed conversion provides a magic mix of character and contemporary. That is maximised through original oak timbers quite literally highlighted through the magnificent expanses of glazing."

The wow factor is made the most of on the first floor with a magnificent gallery landing open to the glazed frontage.

Contact Balfours on 01743 353511.



Charming home situated in desirable area on outskirts of town

OSWESTRY
£335,000

<<<

A charming three-bedroomed detached house in a desirable residential area on the outskirts of town, 32 Hampton Rise, Oswestry, is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £335,000.

The ground floor includes large spacious rooms whilst the first floor includes a large family bathroom. The accommodation briefly comprises an entrance porch, entrance hall, cloakroom/WC, a dining room, a lounge, a kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, three bedrooms and a family bathroom.

The property stands on an excellent plot with mature front and rear gardens, a driveway and double garage. Oil central heating and double glazing are installed throughout.

The selling agents are expecting a great deal of interest to be shown in the sale of this home.

Contact Bowen Son and Watson on 01691 595003.



Grade II home benefits from outstanding views of countryside

LLANFECHAIN
£695,000 >>>

Outstanding views are as valid a reason today for calling Llys Uchaf home, as they would have been when this property was first built in the 17th century.

Today its timber framed construction is celebrated with Grade II listing; the five bed property also includes a detached barn and some 12 acres of grounds. The village of Llanfechain is just over a mile away, while Welshpool and Oswestry are each 11 miles. Approaching the steading a wooded copse, stream and wildlife pond, set the scene, these are superseded by paddocks flanking the drive.

Internally Llys Uchaf wants for nothing; the fully equipped kitchen, family room is highlighted by sky lights adding extra light to the south and north facing windows.

The home has a guide price of £695,000.

Contact Balfours on 01743 353511.



Home occupies a quiet elevated position in village

TREFONEN
£425,000

A spacious detached house with stunning views, Kappara, Spring Bank, Trefonen overlooks the village towards the Shropshire Plain.

The home is within a short distance of the village amenities. The property has a reception hall, three reception rooms, a study, a kitchen, a utility, a cloakroom, five bedrooms and a bathroom. There is a large garden plot, double garage and solar panels. The property is on the market through JJ Dell & Co with offers in the region of £425,000.

The home occupies a quiet elevated position in Trefonen having good local facilities including a public house, church, shop, sought after primary school and is convenient for the border market town of Oswestry (three miles) with its excellent traditional shopping facilities and access roads to Wrexham, Chester and Shrewsbury.

The property is an executive detached dwelling traditionally constructed of brick under a tiled roof. The



Detached home on a substantial plot comes with good gardens

OSWESTRY
£176,500 <<<

A charming detached three-bedroomed property on a substantial plot, 74 Llys Road, Oswestry is well presented throughout and has parking for numerous vehicles.

With generous lawned gardens and a wood burning stove in the lounge, it is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £176,500. With gas central heating and double glazing, its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hallway, a lounge with the wood-burning stove, a dining room, a kitchen, three bedrooms and a bathroom.

The private gardens include a generous lawned area with hedging and fencing for privacy with a paved patio area and shrubbed borders. The attached single garage has an up and over door, an integral door to the kitchen and an external door to the rear.

Contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 for more details.



accommodation is set over four floors with four half staircases and has the benefit of oil fired central heating and double glazing.

The property is approached over a tarmacadam drive providing ample car parking and turning area leading to a detached double garage (19'10" x 21'6") with two up and over front doors and top floor store room/play room. There is an attractive front veranda and patio with large front lawned garden. To the rear is a large patio area and lawned garden with hedged boundaries.

There is an external workshop and boiler room. The solar panels generate an income of approximately £1,500 per annum.

For more details contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.





Leaseholds on residential property set to be banned

Leaseholds on residential property where home owners can end up paying rising fees for ground rent or to put up a conservatory are to be banned in England and ground rents set as low as zero.

In some cases owners found that the developer had sold the leasehold to private investment companies who then increased the amounts annually, in some cases doubling every year.

Now Communities Secretary Sajid Javid has confirmed that new legislation later this year will outlaw the practice and aim to help those, including first time buyers who often struggle to save for a deposit, who find themselves paying unrealistic amounts.

Some home owners found that they would have to pay large amounts to do things that most owners would regard as ordinary such as putting up a conservatory, changing flooring materials and even painting their garden fence a different colour.

The plan is to put a cap on leasehold fees and a crackdown on leasehold properties that qualify for the Government's flagship Help to Buy schemes. While some developers have voluntarily stopped the practice of selling leaseholds to private companies, others have not and Javid said he was now making sure that all would be equal.

Leasehold generally applies to flats with shared spaces, but developers have been increasingly selling houses on these terms and then selling the leaseholds on. When owners try to buy the leasehold they are quoted huge, unaffordable sums to do so.

"It's clear that far too many new houses are being built and sold as leaseholds, exploiting home buyers with unfair agreements and spiralling ground rents. Enough is enough. These practices are unjust, unnecessary and need to stop," said Javid.

"Our proposed changes will help make sure leasehold works in the best interests of home buyers now and in the future," he explained, and announced an eight-week consultation process with new legislation expected by the beginning of 2018.

Under the proposals some ground rents will be set to zero to stamp out the practice of them being increased significantly, in some cases doubling every 10 years. There will also be changes to the rules on the Government's flagship Help to Buy equity loans scheme so that it can only be used to support new build houses on acceptable terms.

The terms of some leases are becoming increasingly onerous to those purchasing leasehold flat or house, who often find they need to pay thousands of pounds to their freeholder to make simple changes to their homes.

Recent cases include a home owner being charged £1,500 by the company to make a small alteration to their home, a family house that is now unsaleable because the ground rent is expected to hit £10,000 a year by 2060 and a home owner who was told buying the lease would cost £2,000 but the bill came to £40,000.

Ground rents are charged on all residential leasehold properties but evidence shows that they are becoming increasingly expensive.

Loyal bank customers face extra costs at end of fixed term deal

Loyal bank customers who do not remortgage after their fixed term deal comes to an end can end up paying an average extra £400 a year, according to a study.

Citizens Advice said homeowners who are rolled onto their bank's standard variable interest rate (SVR) at the end of a two year fixed term mortgage deal, and remain there, face an average "loyalty penalty" of £439 a year.

The charity calculated that 1.2 million people would be better off if they switched to a new deal, with one in 10 paying more than £1,000 a year extra by staying on the SVR.

Debt

First time buyers, who typically have more debt and more time left on their mortgage, face paying an extra £1,359 a year once their two year fixed deal expires.

The advisory service also found older and poorer mortgage holders are more likely to be hit by a loyalty penalty.

It compared the interest rates of the UK's six largest mortgage providers to find out how much a typical SVR customer could save by switching to each provider's cheapest fixed term offer, calculating that 83 per cent of people would be better off if they switched to a new deal.

However, it also found low awareness of the problem, with 51 per cent of those on expired fixed term mortgages wrongly thinking they pay the same or less than newer customers.

The charity wants the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) to make all lenders provide



clear information to new and existing customers about how much they could lose by rolling onto a standard variable rate.

Default

It also says the FCA should consider changing the name of the default mortgage

rate to help customers better understand the changed nature of the contract, for example by replacing "standard variable rate" with "expired rate".

Citizens Advice chief executive Gillian Guy said: "Our research shows that many who choose fixed rate mortgage deals face steep price hikes once they expire. But

two-thirds of borrowers say their lender has never told them they could save money by switching.

"Lenders must be more upfront and provide their customers with clear information about what could happen to the cost of their loan once the fixed term period ends."

How to get your outdoor area sorted for sale

If you are thinking of putting your property on the market in the very near future and you have a big garden DIY project to do, now's the time.

A tidy outdoor area can make all the difference with prospective buyers when you are trying to sell your property.

Building a deck or laying a patio takes some skill and experience, but putting up a wooden garden shed can be more straightforward, especially as it should come in panels and have instructions. You must first have or create a sturdy base for it, ideally a concrete slab. Wooden sheds usually have a wooden floor (that can sometimes go on a base of gravel and sleepers), but metal sheds usually have the concrete base as the floor.

Replacing a fence can also be too much for inexperienced DIYers – if the posts aren't fitted properly, for example, the fence may not be able to withstand strong winds.

However, replacing rotten fence panels is much easier if the new panels are the same size as the old ones. You often have to cut back shrubs and other plants before working on your fence or shed – try the Stihl HSA 45 cordless hedge trimmer (RRP £99, www.stihl.co.uk), part of Stihl's new lightweight cordless range of tools. The HSA 45's integrated 18V lithium-ion battery has a 40-minute run time, so you can get a lot done.



Many wooden sheds and fences come pre-treated with wood preservative or a similar treatment, but if they haven't been, treat them as soon as you can. Garden wood paints and stains provide increased protection from the elements, and there are lots of bright, pastel, muted and neutral colours to choose from. Painting your fence, shed and other garden wood in lovely colours is lots of fun and a great way to transform the look of your garden.

On a warm summer day, it's nice to take portable DIY projects, such as doors and furniture, outside to

work on them. This also applies to messy DIY tasks, such as sanding, sawing and planing, which are often best done outdoors.

The problem with this is that you might not want to make a mess of your outside area with sanding dust and sawdust. This is when the Karcher WD3 P Wet and Dry Vacuum Cleaner (£99.99 (was £129.99), www.karcher.com/uk) comes into its own.

Simply plug your electric sander or saw into its built-in power socket, and the mess is sucked straight into the vacuum cleaner (as long as the power tool's compatible with dust extraction) – the suction automatically syncs on and off with the sander or saw. For cleaning off things outside before painting them, the Karcher OC3 Portable Cleaner (£129.99) will save you multiple trips indoors. This is a small battery powered low-pressure (5-bar) washer with a 4ltr water tank, ideal for DIY tasks outside, and taking anywhere with you, even on holiday.

If you're not experienced enough to tackle a big garden DIY project, you could get stuck in to the demolition before the pros start the skilled work. Knocking down or breaking up an old patio, pond, garden wall, or concrete path or yard, etc, can save you a lot of money in labour. Again, the Karcher WD3 P vacuum cleaner is really useful here because it can suck up rubble, stones and liquids from your grass, drive and patio.

Hundreds turn out in tribute to teenager James



Friends, relatives and team-mates heard tributes to James Corfield in Montgomery near Welshpool

HUNDREDS of people turned out to pay tribute to a popular cricketer at an emotional celebration of his life.

Huge crowds gathered at Montgomery Cricket Club's Lymore Ground on Friday to pay their respects to James Corfield, 19, a man described as a "star in the making".

James went missing at the Royal Welsh Showground in July prompting a large scale five-day search.

His body was found in a deep pool in the River Wye and his home town of Montgomery has been in mourning ever since.

Town crier Sue Blower opened proceedings saying: "This is an extremely sad day."

"We are here to remember James William Bernard Corfield and celebrate his life, how much he is loved and how much he is in our hearts."

His older brother Tom, also a fellow farmer

and team mate at Montgomery Cricket Club, recalled memories of their time together.

He said: "He was a kind and generous person."

"He was a keen football, cricket and tennis player and loved Tottenham Hotspur, to a point where he didn't watch them because he thought he brought them bad luck."

"His main passion was cricket and we played anywhere, in the barns and in the house, where

we would smash things such as windows and ornaments."

"He was a talented cricketer winning many awards and there was much more to come from him."

"He was my brother and also my best friend. Goodbye James, you were a genius."

Cousins, family members and friends read emotional tributes to the young farmer throughout the hour-long ceremony.



Hundreds of people turned out for the celebration of the life of James Corfield

Town's diverse cultures are celebrated at festival



Gary Foot and Pete Beresford entertain the visitors



Henna artwork was on offer at CultureFest



The CultureFest ran alongside the Shropshire Produce Market, attended by Amanda Woof from Auntie Mo's Handmade Scotch Eggs

Report by Lisa O'Brien

THE first Oswestry CultureFest drew crowds of people to the town centre.

Free music and dance performances from different cultures entertained visitors on Saturday.

Running alongside the Shropshire Produce Market, CultureFest activities were focused on Bailey Head, Bailey Street, Cross Street and at the Cross and Festival Square.

It included Klezmer music by the Klezmernauts, Bhangra dance by Nachda Sansaar, the Oswestry Street Band and Bulgarian music and dance.

There were also other pop-up performances of music, poetry and readings throughout the day. Other attractions include free tasters of food from different cultures, and free henna tattoos on Bailey Head. A host of information stalls were run by local groups and organisations celebrating Oswestry's vibrant and diverse communities. The event was organised by Fairness, Respect, Equality Shropshire (FRESH) Ltd, Shropshire Council's Community Enablement team, Oswestry Town Council, the Hermon Chapel Centre, the Jools Payne Partnership, Oswestry Equality Group, Disability Oswestry and Oswestry Welcomes Refugees.

One of the organisers Jools Payne said: "There's been a fantastic vibe in Oswestry. There were lots of crowds in the streets. People have been joining in with the dancing. It was like a festival atmosphere. The town has been as busy as you would expect to see it on Oswestry food festival day and that's always Oswestry's busiest day."



The produce market and CultureFest had lots of food



Henna artist Liz Dando with Ilse Versluijs at the CultureFest celebrations



The Bailey Head was looking colourful for the produce market and CultureFest

Council in support of hotel plan

COUNCILLORS held an emergency planning meeting to discuss plans for a 26-bed budget hotel.

Weston Rhyn Parish Council met to give its response to Marston's application to build next to the Poachers pub and restaurant in Chirk Bank, near Oswestry.

Chairman Ralph Cooper said while the council had no objection to the planning application in principle, there is a number of caveats councillors would like to see enforced.

The plans are part of Marston's nationwide development programme to provide overnight accommodation on selected sites across its estate and the company says it could create up to 10 new full-time and part-time jobs for housekeeping and reception duties.

Councillor Cooper said members hope the roles would be given to local people.

"We support the hotel but there is one or two concerns that we will be passing on to the planners," he added.

"The development will be in the World Heritage Site buffer zone so Shropshire Council should consider the effect of this development on the site very carefully to ensure there is no negative impact."

"There is also a need for surface water issues to be addressed because the area in question is very wet at times and prone to flooding."

Members also noted that Shropshire Council's SAMDev housing and development plan says the land is open countryside that should not be built on unless there is "exceptional reasons."

Education opportunity at college

NORTH Shropshire College is once again offering the diverse employability and development skills course this September.

The course is run in partnership with Open College Network (OCN) West Midlands and is delivered at the Oswestry and Walford Campuses

The OCN level 1 diploma offers students with additional support needs and learning difficulties the opportunity to pick several different pathways, for example hospitality and catering, construction, sport and leisure, land based studies and many more.

As well as enabling the students to select their desired pathways, the course includes several interesting core modules focussing on money management, CV writing, employability and interview skills to better prepare the students for their future.

Two weeks of work experience is included in the course to enable the students to practise and develop their new skills in a workplace setting.

Pastoral support is also provided within the course such as one to one tutorial meetings and workshops, bosses have said.

Woman denies stealing horse

A 35-year-old woman has appeared in court accused of stealing a pregnant horse.

Maxine Lane pleaded not guilty to taking the horse from the Mile End area of Oswestry when she appeared at Shrewsbury Crown Court. The horse - named Cindy - which belonged to Martin Dewar was said to have been stolen in December, 2015. Lane also denied stealing a Fautras Proban trailer worth £3,400, which also belonged to Mr Dewar, in January this year.

She also pleaded not guilty to the theft of a burgundy HB 505 Ifor Williams horse trailer belonging to Paul Martin, of Furlong Trailers, Ellesmere, between Sept 2015 and June 2016.

The case was adjourned for trial until next year on a date to be arranged.

Lane, of Hensting Lane, Oswestry, Winchester, was granted bail.

Special Report

New surgery would secure practice future

A NEW purpose-built doctors surgery will safeguard the future of a practice looking after 10,000 patients, according to its partners.

The partners of Shrewsbury's Riverside Medical Practice have said the plans for a new surgery at Raven Meadows will give patients "the services and standards they richly deserve".

A planning application for a new practice is currently being considered by Shropshire Council.

A statement from the partners of the practice says that the new premises are vital because of doubts over the future of the Riverside Shopping Centre.

It states: "It has taken many years to reach this point in the practice's long history and this stage is now crucially important to its future."

"The existing building is owned by Standard Life and is included in the plans for the redevelopment of the Riverside Shopping Mall and Pride Hill Shopping Centre. The practice has no security of tenure and its future at its current site cannot be guaranteed."

"The proposed development will safeguard the future of this long-standing and essential town centre general practice."

Group is rated as 'inadequate'

THE group in charge of health services in Shropshire has been rated as inadequate.

Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has been criticised by NHS England in an Ofsted-style rating system.

Simon Freeman, accountable officer for Shropshire CCG, said the NHS England report did recognise the progress the group has made in relation to financial turnaround and organisational resilience.

In her letter Wendy Saviour, director of commissioning operations for NHS England Midlands and East, said she expects the CCG will come out of special measures this year.

It was placed in special measures in November 2015 so it could receive help from external experts to tackle its growing deficit. The group was then put under formal "directions" last year by NHS England to address its financial problems.

At a meeting of the group in Shrewsbury, Mr Freeman said the latest report reflects the difficult financial situation the group finds itself in. The group is currently forecasting an in-year deficit of £19.4 million.

Courtyard for young complete

A COURTYARD for young patients has been transformed thanks to the kindness of volunteers, and a local charity.

The outdoor space used by young patients on the children's oncology ward at Telford's Princess Royal Hospital has been given a colourful new makeover.

The Harry Johnson Trust funded the work to plant new flower beds and paint the fence panels in the courtyard to make it more welcoming for patients.

The work was carried out last month by volunteers, together with staff at chartered accountants Whittingham Riddell who volunteered as part of a "making a difference day".

Further work is planned for the future, including the installation of a summer house, which will enable children and families to have some private time, in the fresh air away from the "clinical feel" of their beds.

Ambulance workers will star on TV show

THE hard work of West Midlands Ambulance Service staff will be beamed to the nation. Ambulance, which will air on BBC One tonight (Thursday) at 9pm, will reveal how staff do more than respond to 999 calls, with behind the scenes access to control rooms and crews.

MP welcomes the scrapping of campaign urging mothers to have 'normal birth'

Report by Thomas Morton

An inquiry into the scandal at Cumbria between 2004 and 2013 attributed it to a 'dysfunctional culture' spearheaded by a gang of 'musketeer midwives'.

Now national figures have also shown the number of babies left brain-damaged by NHS blunders has soared to four a week, with claims against maternity units for botched births leaping by almost a quarter last year.

The figures were revealed in the 2016/17 annual report of NHS Resolution, which handles litigation action against the Health Service.

Parents made 232 claims against the NHS

in 2016/17 – about 20 a month – the highest figure for 11 years.

The total value of compensation payouts for brain damage and cerebral palsy was the highest on record, up nearly a third to £1.9 billion according to the report, an average of more than £8 million per child.

Safety experts blamed a fixation with so-called natural births with minimal medical intervention for the errors and record negligence bills. Peter Walsh, chief executive of Action against Medical Accidents campaigning group, said: "More research needs to be done, but moving away from the cult-like fixation with so-called 'normal birth' is a step in the right direction. It is likely that this and also

staffing issues has led to delays in intervention to protect babies and their mothers. No mother should be made to feel abnormal because an intervention is needed and patient safety should always be the first concern."

Patient safety specialist James Titcombe, whose baby Joshua died due to failings at Morecambe Bay NHS Trust, agreed, adding: "The idea of normal birth at any cost has had dangerous consequences." Mr Dunne welcomed the fact that the RCM had ended its campaign for normal births. He said: "The NHS is already one of the safest places in the world to give birth. But we want NHS maternity care to be even better and have made tackling such tragic failures a priority."

Bosses turn down money from bed push over dress row

Report by Thomas Morton

HEALTH bosses have turned down a £2,500 donation because they were unhappy that the money was raised by men dressed as female nurses.

Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust has, for the first time, refused money raised by the Ludlow Bed Push, which has been running for about 20 years.

The event involves a team of men in drag who collect money every June – in recent years without a bed as modern medical beds are too high-tech and valuable to wheel around the streets.

But Jan Ditheridge, chief executive of the trust, has said she is not comfortable with how the event portrays medical staff.

Peter Corfield, chairman of the League of Friends of Ludlow Hospital, said it was an "over-reaction". But Ms Ditheridge said: "It isn't okay to portray healthcare professionals in this way. We have previously asked that this doesn't happen and therefore don't think it's right to accept any money associated with this activity."

"I'm sure the event was organised with the best intentions and we are sorry if it's made people feel uncomfortable or embarrassed."

"Many people kindly and selflessly raise money for our organisation, and especially for our hospitals. We are eternally grateful for that," she added.

The bed push was the idea of Howard Watkins, lifetime president of the League of Friends. Chairman Mr Corfield said: "We have not had one single complaint about this event from members of the public. The bed push has over the years raised a substantial amount of money and the lads who do it are great supporters of the hospital."

"I need to talk to the lads who do this because it is effectively casting aspersions on their character. What Ms Ditheridge doesn't seem to be aware of is that the bed push was originally set up with the full co-operation of the hospital staff and has been happening in the town for about 18 to 20 years."

"Hospital staff have been involved with doing their make-up and, in the days when we actually pushed a bed around town, a member of staff was sometimes the person in the bed."

"I think it's an over-reaction to say that they will not accept the money."

Thousands raised for MRI scanner appeal



League of Friends chairman Ray Smith, left, and radiology centre manager Glen Whitehouse at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital

ALMOST £3,000 has been raised as part of a £1 million fund for a new MRI scanner at the trust which runs Shropshire's acute hospitals.

The money was raised by the League of Friends of the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital (RSH) by selling tickets for their annual summer prize draw.

The money raised will go towards a £1 million fund for a new MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scanner at RSH.

Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SSTH) is replacing its two existing MRI scanners, at RSH and at the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford, as part of a £1.7million

investment during 2017/18. The fundraising efforts of the league of friends will see a third scanner installed at RSH by the end of March 2018. This will allow more patients to be seen.

Ray Smith, chairman of the league of friends, said: "We are so grateful to the people of Shropshire and Mid Wales for the unstinting support that they have once again given us through ticket purchases in our summer draw."

"We have committed to fund the purchase of an additional new MRI scanner and the entire proceeds of this draw will be put to this fantastic cause. I know that everyone who has supported our drive for funds will take enor-

mous comfort in the fact that 100 per cent of monies raised will be used for the purchase of the scanner and that there are no administrative expenses.

"Our fundraising organisation is entirely staffed by very able and willing volunteers."

Glen Whitehouse, radiology centre manager, said: "We are very excited about welcoming a third, state-of-the-art, MRI scanner to the trust thanks to the generous funding from the RSH League of Friends. This new addition will complement our two current machines that are currently being upgraded to give us the extra capacity we so desperately need."

Residents have say on the future of health system

FURIOUS residents had their say on the future of Shropshire's hospitals during a meeting of a clinical commissioning group.

For nearly 50 minutes residents questioned the board of Telford & Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Group (TAW CCG) on its role in the decision to recommend that A&E services remain at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

They were urged to ask questions, be more transparent, and ensure that every effort is made so that everybody understands the issues when it comes to public consultation.

But the message from the board was clear – a difficult decision had to be made because the current levels of services cannot be maintained and if nothing changes lives will be lost.

At a meeting of the NHS Future Fit Programme Board last month, members renewed their recommendation that an emergency centre should be based at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, while the majority of day case surgery should be carried out at Telford's Princess Royal Hospital.

They are aiming to open the consultation

to the public by September. Linda Madeley, a resident of Telford who attended the meeting, said: "You need to spend time and energy looking for alternatives. Talk to different people who don't have financial cuts as their agenda. Please take on board what communities are telling you. Keep asking questions, you deserve the right answers and I don't think you're getting them. If you don't stop this now, we are all losers."

David Evans, chief officer of TAW CCG, said: "The proposals go back to four years

ago when we did a call to action. We heard a very clear message from communities and clinicians that we couldn't carry on delivering services the way we were, that there were significant workforce challenges and that people wanted to be cared for closer to home as far as practical. What Future Fit has done over those four years is try and build up a consensus on how to beat those challenges."

"We have to spend more on the prevention of disease to keep people away from hospital unless they need to be there."

A WHOLE LOTTA LOVE FOR DEBORAH

INSIDE

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The Ticket

Deborah's Led a life less ordinary

She hails from one of the greatest rock families of them all. Rock'n'blues singer Deborah Bonham grew up as her big brother John was becoming the greatest drummer in music history.

The Led Zeppelin powerhouse was fast, powerful and had his own distinctive groove. Though he died at the tragically young age of 32, he left a legacy that lasts to this day.

Deborah was eight or nine when Led Zeppelin started to take off. And she imagined that his "job" – of touring the world, recording number one hit records and having fans fall at your feet – was perfectly normal. As you would, at the age of nine.

"Where John's talent came from, nobody can say," she said. "I think it's something you are born with. From the age of two or three, he was bashing pots and pans. When it took off for them, I was so young. I grew up with it. I grew up in the thick of it. I just thought that was a normal way of life. I thought you made an album and it went straight to number one."

"Believe me, I later learnt that was not always the case. But I was very young when he joined Led Zeppelin, I was only six or seven. I had a false understanding of the music industry to be fair. But I always knew I wanted to sing."

Not that John – or, indeed, Deborah's mother and father – wanted her to follow in her illustrious brother's footsteps. "It wasn't something my brother or mum and dad wanted me to happen," said Deborah. Especially after seeing what the industry was like, with John. He was right too. It wasn't any place that he wanted his kid sister to be.

"So I did a bit of opera singing to start with. But I just loved blues/rock. And I love performing live. I was always going to do it. You can't deny what's in your heart."

Her parents encouraged her to succeed at school instead of pursuing her improbable dreams of being rock singer. She took their advice, a point. "One great thing I did was learn to speak French at school. I sort of stuck with it and now, for me, one of the best places to tour is France. I often think of my brother and mum and dad telling me to stop at school and learn and I think of how I mastered French because, of course, it paid off. Except I use the language to help me sing the blues."

Deborah, who hails from Redditch, is back on her old stomping ground soon with a headline gig coming up at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms on September 22. It's her second in the region in recent times. Back in May she headlined Birmingham's Symphony Hall with Paul Rodgers, the former Free vocalist who also sang with Queen. The Paul Rodgers gigs were a blast and Deborah is looking forward to being back in the West Midlands.

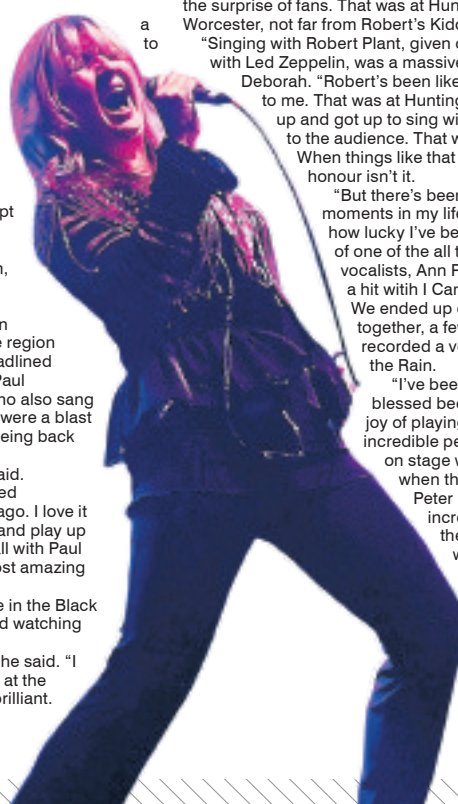
"I'm really excited about it," she said. I can't remember the last time I played Wolverhampton, it was many years ago. I love it up there. Any chance I get to come and play up there is great. We did Symphony Hall with Paul Rodgers and that was one of the most amazing gigs."

She used to spend most of her life in the Black Country, hanging out with bands and watching gigs.

"We always used to come over," she said. "I saw Slade. I remember seeing them at the Wulfrun Hall and they were bloody brilliant. They were a real rocking band."

She also played a gig when

a to



Singing the blues – Deborah Bonham returns to the Slade Rooms



"Uncle" Robert Plant turned up to do a duet – much to the surprise of fans. That was at Huntingdon Hall, in Worcester, not far from Robert's Kidderminster home.

"Singing with Robert Plant, given our family's history with Led Zeppelin, was a massive moment," said Deborah. "Robert's been like a brother or uncle to me. That was at Huntingdon Hall. He turned up and got up to sing with me, unbeknownst to the audience. That was a high moment. When things like that happen, it's an honour isn't it."

"But there's been a lot of amazing moments in my life. Every day I think how lucky I've been. I was a big fan of one of the all time greatest female vocalists, Ann Peebles, who had a hit with I Can't Stand The Rain. We ended up doing something together, a few shows, and we recorded a version of Can't Stand the Rain."

"I've been extremely blessed because I've had the joy of playing with the most incredible people. To get up on stage with Humble Pie, when they reformed with Peter Frampton, was incredible and I guess the Paul Rodgers thing was another recent highlight."

Deborah has other memories of Wolverhampton – and not all of them musical. Like so many Midlands rock stars, she's a fan of Wolverhampton

Singing with Robert Plant, given our family's history, was a massive moment

Wanderers and has enjoyed seeing them play.

"I went to the Wolves on one occasion to see them play Liverpool," she said. "We thrashed them. Everybody thought we'd get thrashed but I think we must have put five past them that day."

She's grateful for the way her life turned out and says she owes much of her success to growing up with John and the rest of her family in a musical household.

"I guess my mum and dad were very musical," said Deborah. "My mum always sang a little, not seriously but, but she loved good music. They were fans of the big bands like Count Basie. That was pretty much John's focus too. My dad loved all the black soul divas like Lena Horne and Mahalia Jackson. He would play a lot of that music. I grew up listening to that. Both my brothers, John and Michael, got into the Motown stuff, as well as the rock. It was a real eclectic house. I was listening to Jimi Hendrix and Joplin and all of that, CSN and Fleetwood Mac, but I was also steeped in the British movement and The Kinks. Then Zeppelin took off and everything changed."

● Tickets are available from the venue.

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Shropshire Star every Friday.

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Yule be thrilled with Christmas specials

It may only be August, but tickets have already been launched for the Severn Valley Railway's Christmas services.

The Santa Sleigh Express will be held at the railway from December 19 to 22.

Passengers will board the waiting steam train at Kidderminster Station for an evening journey to Highley and back, full of festive treats.

Father Christmas will visit passengers in their seats, meeting families, handing out presents to the children and posing for festive selfies.

Families will receive a special gift for their Christmas tree and a souvenir photo

of their group with Santa, to round-off the 120-minute journey.

The sell-out Santa Steam Specials will return to kick-start the SVR's festive schedule – running every weekend from December 2 to 24.

The SVR's fleet of steam locomotives will be buffed and polished, ready to take families on exciting return steam train journeys from Kidderminster, through the scenic Severn Valley, to meet Santa and his team of elves in his special grotto at Arley Station.

After meeting the man himself, each fare-paying child will receive a present.

The Santa Herald services return from December 19 to 22, when Santa will

visit everyone on the train, handing out presents and posing for photos during the journey to Highley.

For fans of a good seasonal sing-along, the SVR's Christmas Carol Trains, on December 2, 9, 16 and 23 are ideal.

And when all the excesses of Christmas are over, the SVR's Festive Season Services will run from Boxing Day into the early new year.

Lewis Maddox, the SVR's events and Footplate Experience co-ordinator, said: "This year should be an extra special and exciting Christmas for us, with the launch our brand new Santa Sleigh Express services."

Tickets are now available at svr.co.uk



Coming soon...

Musical treats on the way

Three major musicals are set to headline at Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn next spring.

Evita, Spamalot and Son of a Preacher Man will be performed at the theatre. Based on the book by internationally-renowned writer Warner Brown, brand new musical Son of a Preacher Man will run at the theatre from March 13-17 with direction and choreography led by Strictly Come Dancing judge, Craig Revel Horwood.

The sparkling new show will feature some of Dusty Springfield's greatest hits with fans expected to hear The Look of Love, I Only Want to Be with You and the legendary title anthem, Son Of A Preacher Man.

Following its smash hit run at London's Dominion Theatre, Bill Kenwright's (pictured) production of Tim Rice and Andrew Webber's Evita is set to thrill audiences from April 3-7.

The production will be one of the largest shows to date at the venue, providing an opportunity to enjoy an iconic musical with of top West End professionals.

The final instalment of musical offerings comes from the 2005 Tony Award Winner Musical Spamalot.

The production, based on 1975 film Monty Python and the Holy Grail, is a comedy full of misfit knights, killer rabbits and dancing nuns.

Written by Python legend Eric Idle, audiences can enjoy the hilarity from May 15-19.



Rare chance to look inside historic planes

It arrived on a low loader – but now a Second World War fighter aircraft built in the Midlands has pride of place at Shropshire's RAF Cosford Museum.

Now, for the first time ever, visitors to the museum are set to be given the chance to climb into the cockpit of the Defiant Mk1.

It is the last surviving example of its kind, built by Boulton Paul at its Pendeford factory in Wolverhampton in 1938. Now it will be the star of the show over two evenings on September 15 and 16. The two-seat turret fighter was in the skies during the Battle of Britain but found its niche as a night fighter from 1940 to 1942.

With just 300 tickets available per evening, organisers are expecting the event will be hugely popular with aviation fans eager to get the first close look inside.

Museum curator Al McLean said: "After four decades on display at the RAF Museum London, the sole surviving intact Defiant example of its type was transferred by lorry to Cosford in December.

"The new arrival has been added to the list of aircraft open at the September open cockpits evening, making this the first time enthusiasts will be able to view inside the cockpit of this iconic British fighter.

"Visitors will be able to get a feel for what it was like to fly these much loved machines and in addition have after-hours access to the museum."

Also new to the open cockpits evening line-up is a former frontline fighter the Gloster Gladiator 1 – the first enclosed cockpit and last biplane fighter introduced into RAF service.

Although Gladiators saw operational service at home, they were most successfully employed overseas particularly in the defence of Malta.

Tickets for the show are £12.50 and are available at www.rafmuseum.org/cosford

The last surviving Boulton Paul Defiant Mk 1



Artwork on display at gallery

Artwork is on display at Oswestry's Willow Gallery.

The gallery's mixed exhibition is open to established artists as well as new and emerging artists, drawing together a wide range of styles, subjects and media.

This year the exhibition has been split into two shows, with the first running from July 8 to August 12 and the second from August 19 to September 16.

Among the work on display is Cabin on the Cliff by Gill Crozier (pictured).

Also on show are all 26 original artworks that make up the A to Z Project for Oswestry. All in different styles, each depicts a different place or person unique and special to the town and local area.

A special map has now been created to complement the series, and is on sale at the gallery along with all 26 A to Z Postcards.

The gallery is always interested in seeing new artworks, and is pleased to invite all artists to submit their work for consideration. Some exhibitions have themes that artists are asked to follow; others are entirely open.

Independently of the main exhibition area, the gallery provides additional wall-hanging space with adjustable lighting for individual artists to exhibit their work.

People should contact the gallery for current availability and rates.



G4 set to return to county

One of the country's best loved harmonising groups will be back on stage in Shrewsbury later this year.

G4 will be performing songs from their album G4 Love Songs, which released in February, when they appear at Theatre Severn.

The new album features songs including Your Song, Amigos Para Siempre and I'd Do Anything For Love.

The group will be joined by some special guests live on stage including soprano Mary-Jess, winner of the Chinese 'X Factor' and singer of the Downton Abbey Theme, Oli Nezz, who is an internationally-renowned multi-instrumentalist, Sorrelli Strings, a critically-acclaimed string trio and a local choir.

The multi-platinum selling vocal harmony group will be on stage on September 28.

For more information and to book tickets go to www.theatresevern.co.uk or call the box office on 01743 281281.

The group last appeared in Shrewsbury in 2015 to a sell-out crowd.



* VOLUNTEERS are holding a promise auction to raise money for a life-saving defibrillator. Residents in Selattyn are hosting the event at the Cross Keys pub in the village at 7pm on September 10. There will be over 30 auction lots including a hamper from Derwen College, an afternoon at the Lion Quays near Weston Rhyn, meals at a number of restaurants and lots more. The money raised will be spent on purchasing a defibrillator which can be used by anyone in the community to save someone's life.

* THE wonderful world of Cats will be explored at a musical theatre and mask-making workshop in Oswestry. Julie Kirk-Thomas, who was a West

NOTICE BOARD

End dancer and singer, has already run the highly popular workshop across the Welsh border this summer. She is bringing it to the Meadows School in Oswestry on Tuesday and Wednesday. Earlier this year Julie returned to her old dance group, The Second Generation, to perform in the Dame Vera Lynn 100th birthday concert at the London Palladium. "The Queen made a surprise appearance, visiting as a private engagement," she said. "I have always wanted to perform at the Palladium and in front of the Queen and

there she was in the Royal Box, it was amazing." The workshop is open to boys and girls between the ages of five and 11 and runs each day. To book contact danceworkshops@yahoo.co.uk or ring 07944402474.

* SHREWSBURY Choral Society has issued an invitation to learn about the joy of singing, with a series of Choral Workshops on September 23, September 30 and October 7. The venue is The United Reformed Church, Coleham Head, Shrewsbury, with the workshops taking place between 10am and 1pm. Thelma Foster, chairman of the Shrewsbury Choral Society, said: "We are pleased to offer the opportunity to try out choral singing for yourself. You

will learn how to use your voice properly, how to read music and how to perform with other people. The workshops will take place under the guidance of our musical director, Dr Martin Cook, who has a friendly, relaxed manner and I can guarantee people will really enjoy the experience. The aim of these Choral Workshops is ultimately to have some very enjoyable sessions of singing, meeting some musical challenges and reaching a good performance level. There will be opportunities to meet other singers and perhaps make new friends." The fee for the workshops is £60 for all three days and includes tea and coffee. Contact Jonathon Bruton on 01743 369425.

August 26

saturday



Len Goodman's Partners in Rhyme
6.45pm
Nina Wadia, Gareth Malone, Vikki Stone and Ore Oduba help a pair of would-be poets battle through four rounds of rhyme-based challenges.

BBC1	
6.00	Breakfast.
10.00	Saturday Kitchen Live. Donal Skehan is joined by Joel Dommett, wine expert Susie Barrie and guest chefs Frederick Forster and Galton Blackiston. Featuring classic clips from the BBC archives.
11.30	Nadiya's British Food Adventure. Nadiya Hussain takes a culinary road trip through Scotland. (R)
12.00	Football Focus. Dan Walker and guests look ahead to the weekend's matches, which include Liverpool v Arsenal, Chelsea v Everton and Manchester United v Leicester City.
1.00	BBC News; Weather.
1.15	Diamond League Athletics: Zurich Highlights. The Weltklasse Zurich.
2.00	Live Challenge Cup Rugby League Final. Wigan Warriors v Hull FC (Kick-off 3.00pm). Mark Chapman introduces coverage of the showpiece occasion at Wembley Stadium, as the Airlie Birds look to retain the trophy.
5.30	Flog It! Antiques experts David Fletcher and Mark Stacey look for the best antiques the public have to offer at Lulworth Castle in Dorset. (R)
6.30	BBC News.
6.40	Midlands Today; Weather.
6.45	Len Goodman's Partners in Rhyme. Nina Wadia, Gareth Malone, Vikki Stone and Ore Oduba help a pair of would-be poets battle through four rounds of rhyme-based challenges. With guest Anton Du Beke.
7.20	Pointless Celebrities. Lizzie Webb, Chris Steele, Robin Cousins, Rosemary Conley, Iwan Thomas, Katharine Merry, Dr Dawn Harper and Dr Pixie McKenna compete in a "health and fitness" edition of the quiz. (R)
8.05	Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. Last in the series.
8.45	Casualty. Part two of two. Dylan is frustrated by how little he is able to improve the lives of the migrants in France, and back in the UK, Jez, Robyn and baby Charlotte are in grave danger.
9.35	Mrs Brown's Boys. Dermot's pre-marriage nerves get the better of him, so he locks himself away in a cupboard. Rory's secret is revealed to his mother. (R)
10.05	BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.
10.25	Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Manchester United v Leicester City and Bournemouth v Manchester City.
11.55	People Just Do Nothing. Beats has to deal with the conflict with a rival station, while Grindah concentrates on getting back together with Miche – a mission that is disrupted by some unexpected guests.
12.25	FILM: In the Electric Mist (2009). A recovering alcoholic detective investigates a murder in the Deep South, and is troubled by visions of ghostly Confederate soldiers. Mystery, with Tommy Lee Jones.
2.10	Weather for the Week Ahead.
2.15	BBC News.



Nina Conti's Edinburgh Festival
7.30pm
The comedian and ventriloquist showcases some highlights of the festival, chatting to Irvine Welsh about his show Performers.

BBC2	
6.20	Coast. Nick Crane gathers bounty for a traditional feast on the Faroe Islands. (R)
7.20	FILM: The Man in the White Suit (1951). Satirical Ealing comedy, starring Alec Guinness.
8.45	FILM: The Magnificent Ambersons (1942). Period drama, with Joseph Cotten.
10.10	Homes Under the Hammer. Properties in London, Blaenau Gwent and Cumbria. (R)
10.55	Natural World: Beavers Behaving Badly. A relocation programme for beavers in Wyoming. (R)
11.55	FILM: Bedknobs and Broomsticks (1971). Disney musical fantasy, starring Angela Lansbury.
1.50	Wanted Down Under. A family samples life in Melbourne. (R)
2.20	Mastermind. Specialist subjects include the Irish rock band U2. (R)
2.50	Only Connect. A team of former physicists takes on a trio united by their love of Belgium. (R)
3.20	Gardeners' World. Monty Don offers advice on how to get a good crop of pumpkins. (R)
4.20	Final Score. A round-up of this afternoon's football results.
5.20	University Challenge. York takes on Warwick. (R)
5.50	The Big Family Cooking Showdown. The Karim family from west London go up against the Dawes from Hampshire. (R)
6.50	Proms Extra. Katie Derham Soweto Kinch and John Butt review Bach's St John's Passion from Prom 49, and the Charles Mingus Prom, featuring Kandace Springs, Shabaka Hutchings and Christian Scott.
7.30	Nina Conti's Edinburgh Festival. The comedian and ventriloquist showcases some highlights of the festival, chatting to Irvine Welsh about his show Performers and meeting poet and musician Benjamin Clementine.
8.00	Iolo's Great Welsh Parks. Nature expert Iolo Williams visits Padarn Country Park near Llanberis in Snowdonia, hoping to see the likes of ring ouzel, wood warblers and pied flycatchers.
8.30	Dad's Army. Walker is caught smuggling Italian PoWs out of camp at night, but far from being a traitor, he is furthering the war effort – and making some money on the side. (R)
9.00	Festival Tales: Edinburgh at 70. Jack Whitehall reflects on the history of the Edinburgh Festival, and the role it has played in revolutionising art and culture on an international scale.
10.00	Performance Live: Get a Round. A trio of friends hell-bent on having a good time, wonder whether a big night out can save the world. Theatrical comedy, starring Sara Cocker, Lowri Evans and Leonie Higgins.
10.40	FILM: The Help (2011). An aspiring journalist in 1960s Mississippi creates controversy by giving black servants the chance to tell their stories. Drama, starring Emma Stone and Viola Davis.
1.00	FILM: The German Doctor (2013). Fact-based drama, starring Alex Brendemuhl.
2.25	This Is BBC2.



Les Dawson Forever
8pm
Martin Clunes narrates a profile of the comedian, featuring contributions from family, friends and famous fans, including Johnny Vegas, Ken Dodd, Rick Wakeman and Johnny Ball.

ITV	
6.00	CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids 6.20 Sooty 6.30 Signed Stories: Share a Story 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.45 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 7.00 Oddbods 7.05 Oddbods 7.15 Super 4 7.25 Mr Bean: The Animated Series 7.40 Mr Bean: The Animated Series 8.00 Thunderbirds Are Go
8.25	ITV News.
8.30	Weekend. With Charlie Brooks, Jake Humphrey and Martin Shaw.
9.25	ITV Racing: The Opening Show. A look ahead to the fourth and final day of the York Ebor Festival.
10.20	Gok's Lunchbox. A recruitment manager, a dog groomer and a home cook rustle up pork dishes. (R)
11.15	1000 Heartbeats. Quiz show, hosted by Vernon Kay, in which contestants' pulses are monitored and they must complete seven rounds before their hearts beat 1,000 times to win the jackpot. (R)
12.15	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
12.25	The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on quiz expert the Chaser and secure a cash prize. (R)
1.30	ITV Racing Live: York Ebor Festival. Ed Chamberlin and Francesca Cumani present coverage of the final day of the festival, featuring races at 1.55, 2.25, 3.00 and 3.35. Plus, races from Goodwood at 2.10, 2.45 and 3.20.
3.55	Tipping Point. Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)
4.55	Little Big Shots USA. Highlights of the series. Last in the series.
5.50	ITV News Central; Weather.
6.00	ITV News and Weather.
6.15	You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from cute kids and crazy animals to pranks and painful-looking accidents. (R)
7.15	Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern challenges Amanda Tollan, Manish Mehta and Charlotte Myers to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000. (R)
8.00	Les Dawson Forever. Martin Clunes narrates a profile of the comedian, featuring contributions from family, friends and famous fans, including Johnny Vegas, Ken Dodd, Rick Wakeman and Johnny Ball.
10.00	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
10.15	FILM: Captain Phillips (2013). The captain of a cargo ship travelling around the coast of Somalia is taken hostage when pirates raid the vessel. Fact-based thriller, starring Tom Hanks and Barkhad Abdi.
12.45	Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00	The Hungry Sailors. Dick and James Strawbridge travel to Cremyll in south-east Cornwall, where they help a woman move an enormous pig ark and learn how to make their own cordial. (R)
3.50	ITV Nightscreen.



Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It
5.35pm
Kirstie Allsopp has plenty of refurbishment ideas for an Essex couple who have let the maintenance of their house slide.

Channel 4	
6.00	Mobil 1 The Grid. Including a look ahead to F1's Belgian Grand Prix with Red Bull's Max Verstappen.
6.30	Motor Sport: Caterham. Action from Oulton Park in Cheshire.
7.00	Motor Sport: British Rally Championship. The Ulster Rally.
7.25	Everybody Loves Raymond. Robert is injured in the line of duty. (R)
7.50	Everybody Loves Raymond. Debra makes Ray renew his wedding vows. (R)
8.20	Frasier. A lawyer begins dating Frasier. (R)
8.50	Frasier. Samantha ends her relationship with Frasier. (R)
9.20	Frasier. A story is told from four perspectives. (R)
9.55	Formula 1 Belgian Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. Lee McKenzie presents coverage of the third practice session from Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps, where the 12th meeting of the season is set to take place.
11.25	F1 Meets David Coulthard. Lee McKenzie sits down with the former F1 driver to discuss his career.
11.55	Formula 1 Belgian Grand Prix Qualifying Live. Coverage of the qualifying session at Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps (Start-time 1.00pm), as the drivers battle for pole position at the 12th round of the season.
2.30	World's Most Expensive Cars. Ken Gross goes in search of America's rarest Ford car.
3.35	A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. A Hampshire couple search for a property on the Costa Blanca. (R)
4.35	Big House, Little House. Kitchen-diner renovations in East Sussex and West Yorkshire.
5.35	Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. An Essex home with a long list of maintenance jobs. (R)
6.30	Channel 4 News.
6.55	FILM: Ender's Game (2013). A gifted boy is trained to lead Earth's military forces into battle against the threat of an alien attack. Sci-fi adventure, starring Asa Butterfield. Edited for violence.
9.00	FILM: Dumb and Dumber To (2014). Premiere. The dim-witted friends are reunited after 20 years, and set off on a road trip to find Harry's estranged daughter. Comedy sequel, starring Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels.
11.10	FILM: Ted (2012). A boy's magical living teddy remains his friend into adulthood, creating tension with his girlfriend. Comedy, starring Mark Wahlberg, with the voice of Seth MacFarlane.
1.10	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. Chef Gordon Ramsay goes back to three restaurants – Mojito, The Junction and Bazzini – to check in with the owners he helped in the past. (R)
2.00	Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Darren plans to take Shane down, Mandy panics over a letter from social services and Brody sabotages Scott's plans.
4.10	Location, Location, Location. Phil Spencer heads to Nottinghamshire to help find a home for a couple who have spent most of their relationship living with their parents. (R)
5.05	Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb.



Football on 5: The Championship
9pm
Highlights from the latest games in the Championship, which included Bristol City v Aston Villa and Nottingham Forest v Leeds United.

Channel 5	
6.00	Milkshake!: Poppy Cat 6.10 Little Princess 6.25 The Mr Men Show 6.35 Milkshake! Monkey 6.40 Milkshake! Bopping About 6.45 Simon 6.50 Peppa Pig 6.55 Wisper 7.05 Bob the Builder 7.15 Fireman Sam 7.25 Oilly the Little White Van 7.30 Oilly the Little White Van 7.40 Paw Patrol 7.55 Blaze and the Monster Machines 8.20 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.35 Floogals 8.50 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.05 Shimmer and Shine 9.15 Digby Dragon 9.30 Peppa Pig 9.40 Peppa Pig 9.50 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
10.10	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R)
10.35	Animals Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R)
11.00	Police Interceptors. (R)
12.00	Police Interceptors: Rookies and Raids. (R)
1.00	Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. A glimpse into the life of cabaret performer Mark from Leeds. (R)
2.00	Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. Drag artist Mark faces a potential disaster on the day of Benidorm Pride. (R)
3.00	Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. Tenants leave a landlord over £20,000 behind with his mortgage. (R)
4.00	Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. A landlady discovers her property is being rented out as a boutique hotel online. (R)
5.00	Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Two agents try to evict a community of travellers from a private car park. (R)
6.00	Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)
7.00	Cricket on 5. England v West Indies. Highlights of the second day of the Second Test in the three-match series, which takes place at Headingley.
8.00	Supernatural Nazis. Nazi series. The role of occultism in Nazi Germany, beginning with a look at how the teachings of Christianity were corrupted to influence people to see Hitler as a messiah figure.
8.55	5 News Weekend.
9.00	Football on 5: The Championship. Highlights from the latest games in the Championship, which included Bristol City v Aston Villa, Nottingham Forest v Leeds United, and Middlesbrough v Preston North End.
10.00	Football on 5: Goal Rush. Goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, which included Rochdale v Bury, Wigan Athletic v Portsmouth, Mansfield Town v Luton Town, and Yeovil Town v Coventry City.
10.30	Britain's Favourite Abba Songs. A countdown of the Swedish pop group's 20 most popular songs, as voted for by their fans, with celebrities including singers Jane McDonald, Claire Richards and Liz McClarnon and former Blue Peter presenters Janet Ellis and Peter Duncan introducing their favourite clips. Featuring rare footage of the band, fascinating facts, and the stories of people who have turned their homes into shrines to the four-piece, a woman who named her daughter Abba, and a lady who learned Swedish just to get closer to her heroes. (R)
12.00	Access.
12.10	SuperCasino.
3.10	Delete.

August 27



Match of the Day 2

10.35pm

Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Liverpool v Arsenal, Chelsea v Everton, Tottenham Hotspur v Burnley and West Bromwich Albion v Stoke City.



Astronauts: Do You Have What It Takes?

9pm

The remaining candidates are put through more demanding tests as they are pushed to their limits in a simulated emergency splashdown.



Possibly the Best Adverts in the World

7pm

Hugh Dennis narrates a two-hour special in which celebrities select their favourite commercials in a range of categories.



Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year

7pm

George Clarke presents the Pubs and Entertainment and Unexpected categories, including a hedgehog rescue centre.



Cricket on 5

7pm

England v West Indies. Highlights of the third day of the Second Test in the three-match series, which takes place at Headingley. With commentary and analysis from Mark Nicholas.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.**
- 7.35 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Manchester United v Leicester City. (R)
- 9.00 BBC News.**
- 10.00 Sunday Morning Live.** Sean Fletcher and Emma Barnett present topical debate covering religious, moral and ethical issues, with guest panellists and contributions from viewers.
- 11.00 Homes Under the Hammer.** Martin Roberts, Lucy Alexander and Dion Dublin take a look round a semi in Manchester, a one-bedroom flat in Kent and a Victorian house in Crewe. (R)
- 12.00 Bargain Hunt.** Two teams are challenged to scour an antiques fair and pick up bargains to sell for profit at auction. (R)
- 1.00 BBC News; Weather.**
- 1.15 Fake or Fortune?** Fiona Bruce and art expert Philip Mould investigate a landscape that may be a lost painting by Constable, and an alternate view of his masterpiece The Hay Wain. (R)
- 2.15 Money for Nothing.** Sarah Moore transforms and then sells a chair, an art deco toy and a broken table about to be dumped, before giving the profits to the people who were getting rid of them. (R)
- 3.15 Escape to the Country.** Helping retirees return to the British countryside after 30 years living in Spain. (R)
- 4.00 Songs of Praise.** Commemorating the 20th anniversary of Princess Diana's death.
- 4.35 FILM: Toy Story 2 (1999).** Buzz Lightyear races to rescue Woody when he is stolen by a toy collector planning to sell him to a museum. Animated sequel, featuring the voices of Tom Hanks and Tim Allen.
- 6.05 BBC News.**
- 6.20 Midlands Today; Weather.**
- 6.30 Countryfile.** Ellie Harrison and Steve Brown present the show from the Llyn Peninsula, joining a marine conservation project and meeting dairy farmers who deliver their milk door to door.
- 7.30 Diana, 7 Days.** Documentary exploring the week following Princess Diana's death, with first-hand accounts from those who found themselves at the centre of the ensuing events.
- 9.05 Strike – The Cuckoo's Calling.** New series. Private detective Cormoran Strike is called in to investigate the apparent suicide of a supermodel. Crime thriller based on books by JK Rowling, starring Tom Burke. The second episode will be shown tomorrow.
- 10.05 BBC News.**
- 10.25 Midlands Today; Weather.**
- 10.35 Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Liverpool v Arsenal, Chelsea v Everton, Tottenham Hotspur v Burnley and West Bromwich Albion v Stoke City.
- 11.45 Live at the Apollo.** Sarah Millican hosts an evening of stand-up at the Apollo in Hammersmith, London, introducing routines by Joe Lycett and Russell Kane. (R)
- 12.30 Weather for the Week Ahead.**
- 12.35 BBC News.**

BBC2

- 6.15 The Instant Gardener.** Transforming a para-athlete's boring back garden. (R)
- 7.00 Garden Rescue.** Creating a stylish retirement haven in Romsey, Hampshire. (R)
- 7.45 Gardeners' World.** Monty Don offers advice on how to get a good crop of pumpkins. (R)
- 8.45 The Beechgrove Garden.** The team visits the Means village of Arbuthnott.
- 9.15 Countryfile.** Summer special from the Blenheim Estate. (R)
- 10.15 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** Matt Tebbutt presents highlights of the series.
- 11.45 Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food.** Simple ways to cook classic dishes. (R)
- 12.15 MOTD2 Extra.** Mark Chapman presents the football discussion.
- 1.00 Coast.** The presenters seek out the ideal locations to enjoy their personal passions. (R)
- 1.45 Triathlon World Series: Stockholm.** The eighth and penultimate round of the season from Stockholm.
- 3.30 Equestrian: European Championships.** The show jumping and dressage events at the European Championships.
- 6.00 Tribes, Predators & Me.** Gordon Buchanan joins a group of Bushmen in Botswana's Kalahari Desert to learn their ancient secrets for surviving on foot among wild lions. (R)
- 7.00 Gordon Buchanan: Elephant Family & Me.** Part one of two. Gordon Buchanan encounters a family of African elephants in the wilds of Kenya, and attempts to gain their trust so he can observe them up close. (R)
- 8.00 Dragons' Den.** The panel cast an eye over plans for furniture made from old aeroplane parts, organic dog treats, healthy snacks and a company that buys and sells books. Presented by Evan Davis.
- 9.00 Astronauts: Do You Have What It Takes?** The remaining candidates are put through more demanding tests as they are pushed to their limits in a simulated emergency splashdown, and must successfully operate the Mars Rover.
- 10.00 Ill Behaviour.** Charlie is assumed to have committed suicide. Joel decides to visit Kira so he can comfort her, and finds himself enjoying taking over his friend's role in the family.
- 11.00 FILM: The Ides of March (2011).** A presidential campaign worker must decide where his loyalties lie as dark secrets come to light. Drama, directed by and starring George Clooney. With Ryan Gosling.
- 12.35 FILM: Echoes from the Dead (2013).** A woman returns home 21 years after the disappearance of her son and finds her elderly father still striving to find out the truth. Thriller, starring Lena Endre.
- 2.10 Sign Zone: Countryfile.** Summer special from the Blenheim Estate in Oxfordshire. Ellie Harrison meets an accidental artist and Tom Heap discovers how the estate's forests help the local community. (R)
- 3.05 Sign Zone: Holby City.** Oliver struggles with the thought that Tara's death could have been prevented. (R)
- 4.05 This Is BBC2.**

ITV

- 6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids**
- 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids**
- 6.20 Sooty**
- 6.30 Signed Stories: Share a Story**
- 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures**
- 6.50 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures**
- 7.00 Oddbods**
- 7.05 Oddbods**
- 7.15 Super 4**
- 7.30 Ninjago: Rebooted**
- 8.00 Thunderbirds Are Go**
- ITV News.**
- 8.25 Weekend.** With Dave Berry and Christian Cooke.
- 8.30 FILM: K-9 (1989).** Police comedy, starring James Belushi.
- 9.25 Love Your Garden.** Alan Titchmarsh and his team transform two outdoor spaces in Nottingham. (R)
- 11.15 ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
- 12.15 James Martin's French Adventure.** The chef heads to St Tropez. (R)
- 12.25 Joanna Lumley's Postcards.** The actress recalls her journey around mainland Greece. (R)
- 1.25 Catchphrase.** Guessing game, hosted by Stephen Mulhern. (R)
- 2.10 Long Lost Family.** A man searches for the brother his mother never told him about. (R)
- 3.10 Bear Grylls Survival School.** The pupils "panther crawl" across a raging river and go head-to-head building a shelter. (R)
- 3.40 FILM: Superman (1978).** Comic-strip adventure, starring Christopher Reeve.
- 6.30 ITV News Central; Weather.**
- 6.40 ITV News and Weather.**
- 7.00 Possibly the Best Adverts in the World.** Hugh Dennis narrates a two-hour special in which celebrities select their favourite commercials in a range of categories. Featuring Bill Bailey, Fay Ripley and Angus Deayton.
- 9.05 Victoria.** New series. The second series of the period drama begins as Victoria resumes her royal duties after the birth of her first child, aided by a formidable new confidante (Diana Rigg).
- 10.10 ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
- 10.20 Judge Rinder's Crime Stories.** Barrister Robert Rinder reveals how the parents of a teenager killed by a speeding car campaigned for a change in the law that had allowed the driver to escape justice. (R)
- 11.20 5 Gold Rings.** Game show, hosted by Phillip Schofield, in which contestants compete to identify images on an LED floor while viewers can play along using the series app. (R)
- 12.15 Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.00 Motorsport UK.** Highlights from Snetterton, featuring round 18 of the Formula 4 Championship and round 14 of the Michelin Ginetta GT4 Supercup. With commentary by Richard John Neil.
- 3.50 British Superbike Championship Highlights.** James Haydon presents action from both races at Cadwell Park, where the eighth round of the season took place. Commentary by Jack Burnicle and James Whitham.
- 4.40 ITV Nightscreen.** Text-based information service.
- 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues. (R)

Channel 4

- 6.00 Para Triathlon: Superhero Tri.** Action from the inaugural event, which took place at Dorney Lake.
- 7.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray takes an interest in Ally's hobby. (R)
- 7.25 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Debra surprises the family. (R)
- 7.55 Frasier.** A British theme pub becomes Frasier's favourite haunt. (R)
- 8.25 Frasier.** Niles and Frasier employ a private detective. (R)
- 9.00 Sunday Brunch.** With Shane Filan, Eden Blackman and Lady Nadia Essex.
- 12.00 Formula 1 Belgian Grand Prix Live Build Up.** Steve Jones presents a preview of the 12th round of the season.
- 12.35 Formula 1 Belgian Grand Prix Live.** Coverage of the 12th round of the season (Start-time 1.00pm).
- 3.10 Formula 1 Belgian Grand Prix Live Reaction.** A review of the 12th round of the season.
- 4.00 The Crystal Maze.** Action game show, hosted by Richard Ayoade. (R)
- 5.00 Channel 4 News.**
- 5.30 The World's Greatest Kids' Films.** A countdown of classic family movies.
- 7.00 Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year.** George Clarke presents the Pubs and Entertainment and Unexpected categories, including a hedgehog rescue centre, the UK's smallest cathedral, and a recreation of the Tardis.
- 8.00 From Russia to Iran: Crossing the Wild Frontier.** Levison Wood travels into the badlands of Dagestan, where he encounters local warrior clans and takes a journey on horseback to the ancient city of Derbent.
- 9.00 FILM: Taken 3 (2014).** Premiere. Ex-CIA agent Bryan Mills fights to clear his own name after being framed for his ex-wife's murder. Action thriller sequel, starring Liam Neeson and Forest Whitaker.
- 11.15 FILM: The Wolf of Wall Street (2013).** A New York stockbroker lives a life of debauchery as he gets rich through illegal trading. Martin Scorsese's fact-based drama, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Jonah Hill.
- 2.30 Speed with Guy Martin.** Guy tries to cross the English Channel on a flying bicycle held aloft by a helium balloon the size of a bus. He also gets some military advice on surviving crash landings. (R)
- 3.55 Gillette World Sport.** Including an interview with newly-crowned shot put World Champion Tomas Walsh, a look at road cycling tactics with UAE Team Emirates, and Superbike World Championship highlights.
- 4.25 KOTV Boxing Weekly.** Frank Buglioni v Ricky Summers. Highlights of the British Light-Heavyweight title fight, plus action from bouts to have taken place in Kansas, California and Russia.
- 4.50 Mobil 1 The Grid.** Including a look ahead to F1's Belgian Grand Prix with Red Bull's Max Verstappen, plus highlights of WRC's Rallye Deutschland, and NASCAR's Bass Pro Shops NRA Night Race. (R)
- 5.20 Double Your House for Half the Money.** Sarah Beeny offers money-saving tips to a couple hoping to extend a run-down semi in Cheshire. (R)

Channel 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!: Poppy Cat**
- 6.10 Little Princess**
- 6.25 Mr Men**
- 6.35 Milkshake! Monkey**
- 6.40 Milkshake! Bopping**
- About 6.45 Simon**
- 6.50 Peppa Pig**
- 6.55 Wissper**
- 7.05 Bob the Builder**
- 7.15 Fireman Sam**
- 7.25 Oily the Little White Van**
- 7.30 Paw Patrol**
- 7.50 Blaze and the Monster Machines**
- 8.15 Noddy: Toyland Detective**
- 8.35 Floogals**
- 8.50 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom**
- 9.00 Shimmer and Shine**
- 9.15 Digby Dragon**
- 9.35 Peppa Pig**
- 9.45 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom**
- 9.55 Wanda and the Alien**
- 10.10 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** The Neutrinos invade Mikey's mind. (R)
- 10.40 Football on 5: The Championship.** Highlights from the latest games in the Championship. (R)
- 11.30 Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two. (R)
- 12.00 Toddlers Make You Laugh Out Loud.** Internet videos featuring youngsters doing bizarre and humorous things. (R)
- 1.00 Puppies Make You Laugh Out Loud.** Compilation of internet videos featuring dogs. (R)
- 2.00 Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 3.** Compilation of internet videos featuring cats doing bizarre things. (R)
- 3.00 All New Traffic Cops.** A teenage driver leads officers on a high-speed chase across Leeds. (R)
- 4.00 All New Traffic Cops.** A suspected stolen car fitted with cloned number plates crashes. (R)
- 5.00 All New Traffic Cops.** The police pursue a team of suspected car thieves. (R)
- 6.00 All New Traffic Cops.** An intoxicated driver heads the wrong way down the A1 near Leeds, while officers fear for the safety of an offender after finding a trail of blood at a drink-related crash scene. (R)
- 7.00 Cricket on 5.** England v West Indies. Highlights of the third day of the Second Test in the three-match series, which takes place at Headingley.
- 8.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Agents Stewart and Iain head to Manchester, where a landlord is owed £8,000 in rent arrears and has already called for police back-up. Meanwhile, Brian and Del chase £3,000. (R)
- 8.55 5 News Weekend.**
- 9.00 Funny Women: The Mel & Sue Story.** Profile of entertainer and presenters Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins, who have become famed for their irreverent, raised-eyebrow humour and cheeky innuendo.
- 10.30 Sue Perkins' Comedy Greats: The Entertainers.** The presenter introduces some of her favourite comedy performances, featuring Victoria Wood, Graham Norton, Joan Rivers, Bruce Forsyth, Bob Monkhouse and Dame Edna Everage.
- 12.20 Named and Shamed: Greatest Celebrity Scandals.** (R)
- 1.10 SuperCasino.**
- 3.10 Delete.**
- 4.30 Access.** (R)
- 4.40 Divine Designs.** (R)
- 5.10 Nick's Quest.** (R)
- 5.35 Chinese Food in Minutes.** (R)
- 5.50 Chinese Food in Minutes.** (R)

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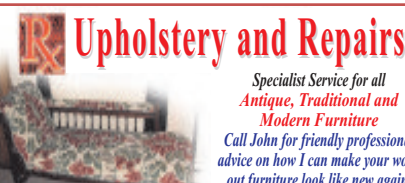
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Kia makes bold effort with Cee'd GT

By John Griffiths

It's not difficult to see the attractions of a performance hatchback: a combination of sports car-like driving dynamics and family car practicality.

Some have become icons in their own right like the Golf GTi, Ford ST, Leon Cupra and Honda's Civic Type-R to name but a few.

That makes it hard for newcomers to edge their nose into the fray but Kia is making a bold and appealing effort with its sporting flagship, the Cee'd GT.

It's perhaps best described as a 'warm' hatch rather than a full-blooded 'hot' machine but combines more reasonable costs with impressive real-world performance. An excellent chassis makes for excellent handling (and it's fun, too) but that doesn't come at the expense of a harsh ride – it's more civilised than extreme.

The £24,010 car's engine is pretty remarkable too, turning out 201Ps of power and – thanks to turbocharging – a hefty 265Nm of torque. Enough to take you from a standstill to 62mph in just 7.3 seconds.

Official average fuel consumption is 38.2mpg (laboratory tests) which is reasonable for a car of this power potential.

My 'real world' test result in an average 34mpg.

The turbo increases the standard 1,600cc engine's output by 51 per cent and torque by 61 per cent but that isn't the only benefit.

This latest version produces maximum torque at lower revs (1,500rpm) than its predecessor for slightly quicker but smoother, more linear acceleration up to the limit. It feels effortless, civilised and particularly quiet – although you can switch on the new noise generator (an electronic device) for a

more growly, sporting sound if that's how the mood takes you. Regulations prevent the use of old-fashioned growly exhausts that can be heard outside the car.

It's switched on by pressing the 'GT' button on the steering wheel which also changes the speedo from an analogue to a digital display, with torque and turbo gauges as well.

This best of two worlds engine really defines the Cee'd: it cruises for the most part at a near silent 2,000rpm but put your foot down for a quick overtake and it surges forward on a very convincing wave of power and torque. The benchmark 37 to 60mph overtaking sprint takes just 5.4 seconds and the job's done.

The chassis has the same dual personality, too. The sports suspension, while firm-ish, as you'd expect, it is well damped so you don't feel the worst some of our bumpy B-roads can offer. It also helps to keep you accurately on your chosen track on such roads, without discernible body roll and no signs of under or oversteer. Add sharp steering and it's a rewarding experience for the keen driver.

This latest Cee'd flagship comes with new 18-inch alloys shod with grippy 225/40 low profile tyres. Bigger disc brakes all round have reduced stopping distances, too.

The interior is a pleasant place to be, with room for five adults: the rear seats are quite generous and there are stylish and comfortable leather and suede Recaro sports seats in front. Trim includes high gloss black and chrome highlights.

As you'd expect of the flagship of the range, the specification is comprehensive, as indeed it is for its sibling – the three-door pro_ceed GT which is £500 cheaper, as it's essentially the same car but with three instead of five doors.

Equipment upgrades on this latest GT



The GT is fun, competent and offers reasonable value-for-money which out it in contention as a class leader in this particular niche

include an MP3 compatible DAB radio as part of a six-speaker audio system, a new seven-inch display screen for the satnav, traffic messaging and reversing camera.

The sports-style 'D' shaped leather steering wheel has a comprehensive array of finer/thumb remote controls, for communications, audio, speed limiter and cruise control, among others. Also standard are electric windows and mirrors, dual zone air conditioning, heated front seats and steering wheel, and rear privacy glass.

All Cee'd and Pro_cee'd models are easily recognisable by their unique 'ice cube' design

LED driving and fog lamps below the main, wrap-around headlights. But the two GT versions are also distinguished by a lower, broader bumper and air dam and larger centre air intake, as well as twin exhausts at the rear.


Body styling touches as new sill mouldings, the bigger wheels, aluminium pedals and red brake calipers also point to the car's potential and character.

In engineering the new Gts, Kia hasn't tried to rival some of the establish track day favourites but instead produced a pair of cars which offer real-world performance

in a fun but civilised manner. It comes at considerably less cost than some of those more focussed rivals, too, along with a full seven years/100,000 mile warranty which is not be to sneezed at.

The GT is fun, competent and offers reasonable value-for-money which put it in contention as a class leader in this particular niche.

If you want a turbocharged Gee'd but don't have pockets deep enough for GT land, for around £3,500 less you can have the three cylinder, 118Ps model in sportily-themed GT Line specification.



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VW confirms production of all-electric Microbus



The new Microbus unites past and future as well as Pebble Beach and the Silicon Valley

Volkswagen has confirmed that it will be putting its all-electric Microbus into production.

Making the announcement at the Concours d'Elegance in Pebble Beach, California, Volkswagen CEO Herbert Diess said that the Microbus "unites past and future as well as Pebble Beach and the Silicon Valley."

It is due to hit dealerships in 2022, and will come as the second vehicle in the compact I.D. range behind a compact hatchback.

Diess added: "After the presentations at the global motor shows in Detroit and Geneva, we received a large number of letters

and emails from customers who said 'please build this car'

"The Microbus, which is what the Bulli is called in America, has always been part of the California lifestyle.

"Now we're bringing it back by developing Volkswagen's next e-generation and by reinventing the Bulli as an electric vehicle."

Though Volkswagen hasn't disclosed much about the layout of the van, it has said the batteries will be mounted in the vehicle floor – most likely for better weight distribution.

The electric motor's compact size also means that the Microbus

has short overhangs and a long wheelbase, maximising space inside.

Diess said: "The vehicle therefore looks like a short compact van on the outside, even as it offers the generous interior space of a large van."

Volkswagen also said the I.D. Buzz will also be available with Level 3 autonomous capabilities, meaning that 'safety critical' features will be controlled by the van, though the driver is still able to pilot the vehicle should they want to.

However, they do not have to monitor the road ahead in the same way as with Level 1 or Level 2.

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CONDITION



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I POD CONNECTION,
BLUETOOTH,
IMMACULATE CONDITION,
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BMW 5 still a premium benchmark

By Darren Cassey

When the BMW 5 Series gets refreshed it's a pretty big deal. It has long been considered the benchmark for premium saloons and estates, but with new rivals such as Volvo trying to worm their way into a sector dominated by BMW, Audi and Mercedes-Benz, it's no surprise that the 5 Series has been overhauled to stay ahead of the competition.

Aside from a slightly more slender appearance, the 5 Series looks very similar to its predecessor. However, under the skin there have been plenty of changes. For example, the chassis has been reworked using more lightweight materials, which contribute to an overall weight reduction of 100kg.

Meanwhile the notoriously smooth ride has been further optimised with a new suspension setup at the front and the rear.

Our 530d test car came with a 3.0-litre, six-cylinder diesel engine. It's an ideal powerplant for those who drive long distances, with excellent response and a surging, torquey power delivery. Resist the urge to put your foot down and you can easily achieve nearly 60mpg.

The 2.0-litre diesel is even more efficient, promising economy in excess of 60mpg and costing less to begin with. It doesn't have the same badge appeal as the 530d, but it has more than enough performance so you never feel like you're missing out.

A calm, relaxing drive has always been the 5 Series' key selling point, and BMW has exceeded its own high standard with the latest model. At motorway speeds it manages to smooth out the road so that even long drives are dispatched with zero stress.



It's a big car and struggles to hide it

What's arguably even more impressive is that this is not at the expense of great handling. The steering weight is perfectly judged and the 5 Series refrains from rolling around making it surprisingly fun to throw down a back road.

BMW's premium estate is a big car, and it struggles to hide it. The design is more slender than before, with the bodywork appearing to hug the frame more tightly. Particularly in the sportier trims, the addition of small aerodynamic wings help to give a more aggressive appearance, though the standard car does look a tad plain.

The interior is fantastic and exactly what you'd expect from a premium estate, sitting further towards the luxury 7 Series than the more family focused 3 Series. A large central screen plays host to all the menus and satellite navigation functions, with many controls able to be used by waving your hands around.

The only complaint that can be levelled at the car is that the seats are quite



The addition of small aerodynamic wings help to give a more aggressive appearance

uncomfortable, resulting in minor back ache over long distances. Be sure to try out different seats and driving positions before settling on one.

The 5 Series' specification is impressive across the board, with even models lower down the pecking order not giving the feeling you're being short changed – a few blanked off buttons the only hint that something is up.

The standard SE model still gets the widescreen on the dashboard, two-zone climate control and ambient lighting, which makes night driving really pleasant. Optional extras that are worth going for include adaptive cruise control, Driving Assistant Plus (which includes a range of advanced driving aids) and wireless mobile phone charging. It's difficult to find much to fault with the

BMW 5 Series. It was already at the top of the game and with a few choice revisions, such as a lighter chassis and upgraded suspension, there's no doubt it'll continue at the top of the sales charts. Every mile behind the wheel reminds you why this is the premium saloon benchmark – sorry to BMW's rivals, but expect business as usual in the sales charts.

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Birmingham & District
Premier Cricket League

First Teams

Premier Division															
	P	W	D	L	T	A	P		P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Knowle & D.....	17	11	2	3	0	289									
Shrewsbury.....	17	12	1	4	0	283									
Berkswell.....	17	9	4	2	0	276									
Ombersley.....	17	10	2	3	0	251									
Barn Green.....	17	7	2	6	0	220									
Dorridge.....	17	6	2	8	0	194									
WB Dartmouth.....	17	6	2	8	0	190									
Wolverhampton.....	17	4	6	6	0	187									
Kenilworth W.....	17	5	4	6	0	181									
Walsall.....	17	5	1	10	0	139									
Kidderminster.....	17	2	2	12	0	125									
Brookhampton.....	17	2	2	11	0	104									

Division One

P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Moseley	17	9	1	6	0	252
Smethwick	17	8	3	3	0	248
Bromsgrove	17	8	1	7	0	238
Brighthelm	17	8	1	7	0	225
Tamworth	17	8	1	7	0	225
Himley	17	8	3	5	0	216
Barnards Green	17	7	2	9	0	212
Leamington	17	5	4	7	0	178
Wellington	17	4	4	8	0	174
Walmley	17	5	2	8	0	167
Attock	17	3	4	9	0	152

Division Two

P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Oswestry	17	12	1	1	0	385
Pershore	17	7	5	4	0	247
Hedley	17	7	5	4	0	247
Fordhouses	17	10	1	6	0	222
C & R Hawks	17	6	0	0	0	2219
Sutton Coldfield	17	4	3	6	1	191
Harborne	17	4	3	6	0	188
Wombourne	17	5	2	8	0	212
Penkridge	17	5	1	9	0	216
Coventry & N.W.17	5	4	0	0	0	2160
Old Elizabethans	17	3	1	0	0	140
Old Hill	17	4	3	8	0	2125

Division Three

P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Streety	17	10	0	5	0	2261
Astwood Bank	17	10	0	0	0	2354
Lichfield	17	10	0	0	0	2245
Stourbridge	17	7	4	5	0	2033
Milford Hall	17	9	0	8	0	2220
Hardsworth	17	8	2	5	1	1229
Kenilworth W.	17	6	1	9	0	1915
Sentinel	17	6	1	9	0	1915
Stratford-U-Avon17	6	1	9	0	0	1195
Brewod	17	6	2	9	0	1910
Worcs Nomads	17	4	1	11	0	1208
Nuneaton	17	3	11	0	0	294

Second Teams

Premier Division

P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Wolverhampton	17	12	1	1	0	3300
Kenilworth W.	17	9	4	3	0	3063
Knowle & D	17	10	2	3	0	2256
Moseley	17	7	3	6	0	2211
Astwood Bank	17	7	1	5	0	2108
Leamington	17	7	2	6	0	2195
Harborne	17	6	2	7	0	2195
Himley	17	3	5	7	0	2158
Brookhampton	17	4	4	8	0	2140
Shelton	17	4	1	13	0	2137
Halesowen	17	2	2	12	0	1107

Division One

P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Attock	17	10	0	0	0	2269
Bromsgrove	17	6	2	5	0	2231
Tamworth	17	6	2	7	0	2225
Barn Green	17	8	1	6	0	2214
Ombersley	17	6	5	4	0	2214
WB Darmouth	17	6	2	6	0	2210
Coventry & N.W.17	6	2	9	0	0	1189
Berkswell	17	5	3	7	0	2177
Old Elizabethans	17	4	4	1	0	2161
Kidderminster	17	3	8	0	0	2141
Smethwick	17	4	1	10	0	2142

Division Two North

P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Shrewsbury	17	13	3	1	0	3320
Penkridge	17	10	1	0	0	2282
Brewod	17	9	4	0	0	2251
Fordhouses	17	8	6	3	0	2250
Milford Hall	17	7	4	5	0	2216
Brighthelm	17	7	4	4	0	2214
Wellington	17	7	4	4	0	2214
Newport	17	7	0	10	0	184
Oswestry	17	4	3	8	0	173
Walmley	17	3	3	0	0	1663
C & R Hawks	17	2	10	0	0	1155
Lichfield	17	1	11	0	0	1114

Division Two South

P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Wombourne	17	11	1	3	0	2280
Pershore	17	11	1	3	0	2272
Stratford-U-Avon17	6	1	4	0	0	2259
Nuneaton	17	9	1	5	0	2226
Dorridge	17	7	1	7	0	2218
Hardsworth	17	7	1	7	0	1200
Streety	17	7	1	7	0	1196
Sutton Coldfield	17	6	2	6	0	3181
Worcs Nomads	17	5	0	12	0	108
Alberbury	17	6	2	8	0	1214
Barnards Green	17	2	14	0	0	1018

Shropshire County Cricket League

Premier

P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Whitchurch	17	11	1	4	0	1286
Worfield	17	11	2	3	0	1283
Ludlow	17	10	3	3	0	1272
Wem	17	12	0	5	0	1272
Knockin & K	17	11	1	5	0	1267
Quatt	17	11	1	5	0	1261
Newtown	17	7	7	0	0	1193
St Georges	17	5	3	8	0	1175
Leabury	17	5	5	7	0	1177
Market Drayton	17	4	2	10	0	1148
Market Drayton	17	4	0	12	0	1124
Albington	17	0	1	16	0	6

Division 1

P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Bomere Heath	17	15	2	0	0	0350
Cound	17	9	1	5	0	2252
Knockin & K	17	8	2	5	0	2229
Wem	17	7	2	7	0	2235
Wroxteter & K	17	7	2	7	0	2235
Conderover	17	7	2	6	0	2213
Welshpool	17	7	2	6	0	2213
Beacon	17	7	0	8	0	2171
Dales, Hereford	17	5	5	7	0	2182
Montgomery	17	5	1	9	0	2179
Forton	17	3	0	12	0	1139
Lliffel	17	2	0	14	0	1116

Division 2

P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Alscott	17	14	1	2	0	0329
Pontesbury	17	14	1	0	0	1247
Ellesmere	17	10	1	5	1	247
Shifnal	17	9	2	6	0	0235
Willet	17	8	1	8	0	0215
Church Aston	17	7	3	7	0	0197
Shrewsbury	17	5	1	9	0	2165
Wellington	17	3	3	11	0	0165
Bishops Castle	17	2	9	9	0	152
Pres	17	2	14	0	0	104

Division 3

P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Harpers	17	11	1	4	0	1265
Hodnet	17	10	2	4	0	1263
Ludlow	17	10	0	5	0	2261
Calverhall	17	8	1	7	0	1243
Iscoyd & FB	17	8	2	5	0	2243
Cast Glas	17	10	0	7	0	0288
Chelmarsh	17	7	3	6	0	2221
St Georges	17	6	2	9	0	0205
Much Wenlock	17	6	2	9	0	2184
Trysull & Sdon	17	5	2	9	0	1173
Action Reymad	17	2	11	2	0	153
Corvedale	17	2	0	12	0	3105

Division 4

P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Overton-on-Dee	15	11	3	1	0	0281
Hinstock	15	10	1	4	0	1254
Ludlow	16	10	1	4	0	1254
Gulfield	16	9	1	4	0	2223
Brighthelm	14	10	0	4	0	0220
Coton Hall	16	3	9	0	0	3178
Guyside	16	3	11	0	0	1138
Llanidloes	16	3	9	0	0	1123
Wroxteter Grove	15	5	1	9	0	0120
Harcourt	16	4	3	8	0	196
Oswestry	16	2	11	2	0	32

Second Teams

Division 1

P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Worfield	17	14	0	2	0	1333
Wem	17	12	1	2	0	2284
Lichfield	17	12	0	2	0	2273
St Georges	17	8	3	6	0	0238
Wroxteter & K	17	7	1	8	0	1197
Whitchurch	17	5	3	8	0	2177
Shelton	17	5	3	8	0	2168
Maesley	17	3	9	3	0	3168
Alberbury	17	3	9	3	0	3156
Quatt	17	4	1	10	0	2156
Cound	17	2	10	0	0	1514

Division 2

P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Wellington	17	12	2	3	0	0317
Beacon	17	12	1	4	0	0293
Montgomery	17	10	2	5	0	0259
Wroxteter & K	17	8	2	6	0	0237
Bomere Heath	17	8	2	6	0	1235
Lliffel	17	8	3	5	0	1235
Newtown	17	8	2	5	0	1231
Ludlow	17	9	0	2	0	0211
Willet	17	7	2	8	0	0204
Shifnal	17	6	4	4	0	1202
Pontesbury	17	5	2	8	0	2184
Frankton	17	5	2	9	0	2184
Market Drayton	17	6	2	9	0	0161
Forton	17	3	1	13	0	0109
Albington	17	2	1	13	0	195
Iscoyd & FB	17	4	1	12	0	072

Division 3

Ellesmere	17	8	2	6	1	226
Much Wenlock	17	9	1	5	0	218
Welshpool	17	8	1	6	0	218
Alscott 17	17	4	8	0	0	201
Cae Glas	17	4	1	10	0	164
Bishops Castle	17	7	0	10	0	0161
Quatt	17	5	2	8	0	2159
Corvedale	17	1	1	14	1	69
Sunday Division 1						
	P	W	D	L/C	A	P
Worfield	17	13	2	2	0	0316
Knockin & K.	17	11	1	3	3	273
Wern	17	10	1	6	0	069
Frankton	17	10	3	3	3	1241

The latest returns from Shropshire golf clubs

CARDEN PARK

Ladies' St Andrew's Cup: Rhian Barton 73 (2) 71; Catherine Wilson 93 (19) 74; Helen Leek 101 (21) 80.

Harris Longest Day Trophy: Susan Malins 40pts; Dinal Buchanan 35pts; Anna James 35pts.

Barker Bottle Trophy: Therese Gooding 88; Anna James 93; Sue Norman 93.

Ping 4BBB: Carole Charmley & Therese Gooding 38; Susan Malins & Jane McGrath 37; Brenda Harrington & Belinda Martin 35.

St David's Trophy: Nicola Jones 92 (20) 72; Anne Jones 106 (32) 74; Maria Alzo-Miquel 105 (30) 75.

Midsummer Trophy: Helen Leek 34; Jane McGrath 33; Anne Dawson 33.

Millennium Trophy: Lorane Scott 36; Catherine Wilson 31; Therese Gooding 31.

HAWKSTONE PARK

July Stableford Division 1: Kevin Atkinson 41pts; James Benson 39pts; Ashley Burdock 37pts; Division 2: Kevin Humphreys 41pts; Dave Robson 41pts; Simon Lock 40pts.

Ridgway Trophy: Lance Ollerenshaw 38pts; Cliff Tweed 36pts; Stuart Smith 36pts.

Ladies' Invitation Day: Molly Moore & Helen Leek 38pts; Julie Wales & Jan Harris 37pts; Louisa Goff & Lorraine Scott 37pts.

Seniors' Walker Cup Round 5: Steve Racitliffe 37pts; Tony Harrop 36pts; Richard Jones-Roberts 34pts.

Juniors' Shield 1st Leg: Thomas Welch 84-16=68; Ted Bache 89-20=69.

HENLLE PARK

Bogey Comp: David O Evans +8; Derek Kellett +2 (cb); Matt Brown +2; John Sutcliffe +1 (cb); Brad Edwards +1; Russ Owen +1; Craig Hughes +1.

Dave Salter 9 Hole Comp: Pete Grimley 22pts; Derek Graham 20pts (cb); John Parry 20pts.

Seniors' Individual Stableford: Paul Hampson 40pts; Russ Owens 39pts; Phil Wilkinson 37pts.

Anniversary Cup: Alistair Wright & Matt Brown 47pts (cb); Colin Forsyth & Dave Evans 47pts; Derek & Scott Graham 45pts.

HILL VALLEY

Stan Chesters Cup: T Sheridan & J Brookfield 46pts; P Barlow & J R Jones 45pts; J Barlow & D McConaghy 42pts.

Emerald Midweek Stableford: M Williams 35pts (16); J Cooke 34 (21); R Lancaster 33 pts (14).

Ladies' Medal (Emerald): G Thomas 92-19=73; S DeBarro 100-25=75; S Coupe 87-12=75.

Brenda Sierstema Trophy: G Thomas 94-19=75; C Ellwood 98-20=78; S Wynn 99-21=78.

LILLESALL HALL

Texas Scramble: S Wood, J Till, D Nunnick, B Johnson (Sandwell Park) 54.7; P Stevenson, R Stevenson, L Byles, J Insall (Lllesall Hall) 54.8; P Harris, M Williams, K Cole, A Smith (Lllesall Hall) 55.9; S Harris (Oswestry), S Lewis (Oswestry), M Phillips (Bridgnorth), D Bullock (Shrewsbury) 56.1.

August Yellow Tee Stableford Division 1: B Ferriday 38; D Hoof 37; D Weaver 36; G Baxter 36; M Redfern 36; Division 2: J Tomlinson 41; D Tanner 41; D Parker 39; M Morris 38; M Harcourt-Poole 37.

Presidents' Putter: H McHale 43; N Withers 42; M Reddin 41; A Saynor 40; D Wilkes 39.

August Midweek Medal: K Cole 82-18=64; T Treharne 82-18=64; D Richards 84-18=66; D Hoof 73-1=72.

August Stableford Division 1: M O'Connor 41; C Cann 39; G Baxter 37; A Napier 35; M Ross 35; Division 2: G Tozer 38; W Held 37; N Hopkins 37; K Gill 36; J Burslem 35.

Ladies' Medal 10: C Ashcroft 101-27=74; J Williams 104-28=76; A Collins 114-36=78; D Morton 91-12=79; L Porteous 115-32=83; D Sutton 107-23=84.

Joyce Fothergill Trophy: R Buckingham 70; M Hopkins 73; D Sutton 75; B Morris 75; J Cole 75.

Seniors' Open: M Reddin & J Tomlinson 44pts.

LLANFYNECH

Ladies' July Medal Division 1 Winner: Lesley Cookson 86-13=73. Runner up: Rachel Pritchard 85-10=75; Division 2 Winner: Val J. Jones 92-22=70. Runner up: Chris Thomas 98-21=77; Division 3 Winner: Jean Barlow 108-36=72. Runner up: Merryl Andrew 106-33=73.

Elderflower Silver Winner (best nett for Ladies of 55 years & over): Val J. Jones 70. Runner-up: Chris Thomas 71.

Hilda Rogers Cup 4BBB Medal Winner: Katey Andrew & Bev Cadwallader 66. Runner up: Annie Evans & Gwenan Davies 67.

Jarnes Bowl Stableford Winner: Katey Andrew 97-26=71. Runner up: Joan Brice 103-29=74.

OSWESTRY

Thursday Medal: Dan Potts 77-11=66; Tom Brown 74-7=67 (cb); Jack Taylor 72-5=67 (cb); Matthew Jones 70-3=67; Rob Williams 79-11=68; Scott Harris 75-5=70. Best Gross: Matthew Jones 70.

Ladies' Hospital Challenge Cup: Tania Pearce 77-4-73; Diane Jones 92-18-74; Helen Whitting 102-26-76 (cb); Susan Graham-Wood 92-18-76 (cb); Emma Hopton 95-19-76.

High Flyers Challenge Bowl: Barbara Bewley 109-31-78; Julia Goff 114-32-82; Gill Spicer 119-36-83.

Seniors' Stableford: John Gallagher 43pts; Jez Mellors 39pts (cb); Alec Richardson 39pts; Chris Griffiths 38pts; Stephen Howell 37pts; Graham Goddard 36pts (cb).

August Open: Ian Pearce & Mick Dearing (Oswestry) 45pts (cb); William Hewitt & Barry Orton (Crewe/Onnerly) 45pts; Bryan Pugh & John Gittins (Oswestry) 44pts; Mike Coping & Don Wraigh (Claydon) 43pts (cb); Paul Pickerton & Norman Lightfoot (Runcorn) 43pts.

SHREWSBURY

Ladies' 18 Hole Stableford Division 1: Gill-Lian Snodgrass 39pts; Mo Griffiths 34pts; Hilary Fowles 35pts; Division 2: Marion Adams 40pts; Lesley Hyne 36pts; Jan Dodd 34pts; Division 3: Rosie Malcolm 30pts; Pippa Henshaw 29pts.

Betty Patch Salver: Clare Kapur & Lis Leung 91-18=73; Susan Skinner & Monica Scott 96-21=75; Jane Edwards & Chris Nash 96-20=76.

THE BROW

Monthly Medal Winner: Barrie Thomas 88-23=65. Best Gross: Terry Brough 84. Division 1: Trevor Williams 95-14=71; David Talbot 95-11=74; Division 2: David Talbot 92-25=67; Ian Davies 88-19=69.

Matthews at double as Guils hit back

A DOUBLE strike from Iwan Matthews secured Guilsfield a battling 2-1 home win over Penrhyncoch to maintain their unbeaten start in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance.

After their creditable 1-1 draw away to fancied Rhyl on the opening day, the Guils were looking to keep up the good work in their first home outing of the new campaign.

But Penrhyn were up for the battle in what proved a tense encounter, taking the lead on the half hour through forward Stef Davies as they chased their first win.

The Guils, though, were not to be denied and turned it around after the break as Matthews - a

summer arrival from Llanrhaeadr - struck on 75 and 77 minutes to seal the points.

Man-of-the match Matthews was one of four players making their home debuts - along with keeper Andy Wycherley, forward Asa Hamilton and 17-year old Curtis Weetman.

The Roosters took the lead with Davies' header but the Guils looked a different side after the break after some strong half-time words from manager Leonard.

They were soon on the front foot with a series of attacks which Roosters' keeper Leigh Jenkins repelled with three top saves while Louis Irvine was also denied after his curling shot struck the upright.

Penrhyncoch still carried a threat on the break, but the home side were far more resolute in the second period, with Andy Ford to the fore at the back.

Adam Jenkins came on in the 70th minute to replace captain Gareth Jones, who was restricted with a troublesome knee strain.

The front man's introduction led to space being created in the last third and, on 75 minutes, Matthews rose powerfully to head home the equaliser.

Guilsfield were now in the ascendancy and, two minutes later, the winning goal arrived in fine style when a flowing move resulted in Jake Cook and the tireless Asa Hamilton combining for Matthews to volley home with a brilliant finish.

New Saints bounce back in super style

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

WES Fletcher fired a second half double as The New Saints shrugged off their opening day defeat with a comprehensive 3-0 beating of Bala Town at Park Hall.

The manner of the victory showed the Saints are in no mood to relinquish the JD Welsh Premier crown which they have lifted for the last six years.

It was the perfect response after the previous week's 5-2 reverse at Bangor City, and also avenged a Welsh Cup final loss to the Lakesiders last May.

After substitute Blaine Hudson headed home Robbie Parry's corner from the left on 57 minutes, Fletcher then took centre stage with a well taken brace to justify his place in the starting XI.

The former York City man fired home the first from an angle before coolly lobbing a second goal, and TNS's third moments later.

Manager Scott Ruscoe was naturally delighted with his side's display, and his first league win since taking charge.

"The Bangor performance was not acceptable, but we've moved on and put it to bed," he said. "Everything we did wrong in that game, we put right against Bala, and the lads were fantastic, right from minute one. It was pleasing for Wes to get off the mark.

"Everyone was at it, we passed the ball quickly, the movement was excellent and we created a lot of chances. When you play like that, you grind teams down, which is what happened and it could have been a few more at the end."

■ TNS face a rematch with Livingston after the sides were paired together in the second round of the IRN-BRU Scottish Challenge Cup.

The Saints won 3-0 away when the clubs met in the quarter-final last season, but this time will have home advantage against the Scottish Championship outfit.

The tie will be played on Sunday, September 3 (2.45), and will be televised live by S4C.

The draw was made at the Falkirk Wheel, with the 24 first round winners joined by clubs from Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Having been invited to take part in a new-look cup for the first time last season, TNS defeated Forfar Athletic (3-1) and Livingston (3-0) in reaching the last four of the competition where they lost 4-1 at St Mirren.

Tangerine dream for Quigley



Ready to rock with Blackpool – former TNS striker Scott Quigley with his new shirt

HIGHLY-RATED striker Scott Quigley has left The New Saints to join League One side Blackpool in what the Welsh Premier champions describe as a "landmark deal for the club."

The 24-year-old, who scored three times in the Champions League during the summer, signed a two-year deal for an initial fee of £35,000, potentially rising to £50,000.

Blackpool also hold an option to extend the deal by a further 12 months, while there is also a sell-on clause.

The fee is a record for the Welsh

champions, and a golden chance for Quigley to impress at the Tangerines who are newly promoted to League One this season.

"This is another landmark for The New Saints, as our players are attracting the attention of higher English League clubs who are prepared to put fair value in today's transfer market," said chairman Mike Harris.

"It is a great testimony to our Academy and first-team manager that we have developed a player with this talent."

"I'm really happy to be here at Blackpool and I'm looking for-

ward to a new challenge. I'm just eager to get going and start training," said Quigley, who was also interesting Peterborough United.

"I'm 24 now and it's about time I made the step in to the English system. I'm glad to have this opportunity to prove myself."

Meanwhile, Shrewsbury Town defender Callum Roberts has completed a loan switch to TNS.

The 18-year-old left-back, a first-year professional at Town, links up with the Welsh Premier champions until January. It is his second loan spell after a stint with Hednesford last season.

Saints up and running with victory on the road

ST MARTINS are up and running in the West Midlands League division one after gaining their first points with a welcome 2-1 win at Knighton Town.

After back-to-back defeats, the Saints started with real purpose and went close on four minutes as Kieran Barry's curling effort from the edge of the box rattled the bar.

At the other, keeper George Austin had to be alert four minutes later to deal with a dipping volley from outside the box, but St Martins threatened again only to be denied by a goalline clearance.

However, they made the breakthrough five minutes before half time when Dom Brown fired into the top corner from six yards.

Knighton went close after the break, but the Saints also had their moments with Barry unable to capitalise on a couple of opportunities to extend the visitors' lead.

The home side were back on terms on 75 minutes when a slick move ended with the ball being curled into the bottom corner of the net.

But the Saints were not to be denied and, in the dying seconds, Dave Easthope played a terrific ball into the box, and Tom Ash kept his cool to smash into the net from six yards.

It was just what Dan Stevens' side needed, and they will be looking to build on that display when they travel to basement side Wyrley in their next game on Saturday.

New keeper saves day in Pool cup win

NEW keeper Dave Littleford made his mark with a vital penalty save as Welshpool Town continued their terrific start to the season with a 3-2 extra-time victory at Churchstoke in the first qualifying round of the JD Welsh Cup.

Pool had been 2-0 down, before pulling a goal back through Will Thomas, but their hopes of a fight-back appeared to fade when conceding a penalty with five minutes remaining.

But Littleford, a recent arrival at Maesydre after being released by Cymru Alliance neighbours Guilsfield, showed his worth by saving the spot kick.

Spurred by that penalty save, Pool went on to win the tie with Ryan Evans levelling late on before Ricky Litchfield pounced for an extra time winner.

Injury-hit KERRY also came from behind to keep their flag flying in the cup with a 2-1 passage against Hay St Marys thanks to goals from Luke Mumford and Mark Hughes.

Davies is the hat-trick hero

ASHLEY Davies bagged a hat-trick as Llanfair United Reserves made a flying start to the Montgomeryshire League division one season with a 4-2 win at defending champions Watertloo Rovers.

Guilsfield reserves finished 1-1 away to Four Crosses, who have dropped down from the Spar Mid Wales League, while Meifod show they mean business after their 3-1 opening day win at Llanymynech.

In division two, 10-man Abernule reserves hit back to earn a 1-1 draw with Welshpool reserves courtesy of Will Denham's reply.

Forsten United, new to the second division this season, sounded an early warning with a 5-1 beating of Newtown Wanderers, while two other new teams, Llanfyllin Town Reserves and Churchstoke Reserves finished 1-1 in their first outing.

Spot of bother sees Llan defeated

DAN Graham missed a late penalty as Llanrhaeadr slipped to their first loss of the Spar Mid Wales League division one campaign when edged out 2-1 at home to Llanidloes Town.

Looking to make it three straight wins, Llan had led at the break before the Daffs turned it around with two goals in the second half.

But the home side had their chances, notably in the last minute when Graham saw his spot kick well saved by keeper Aaron Warrick.

Graham, who netted a hat-trick on the opening day against Aberaeron, had given the home side an interval advantage when heading in a Jack Brayne cross.

Llan could have been further ahead, with Joe Vaughan missing a couple of chances, but the Daffs underlined their credentials in the second period.

They were back on terms on the hour from when

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

Gareth Owen headed in powerfully from an Ed Clarke corner, and took the lead five minutes from time following when sub Joe Evans slid the ball in.

Evans had gone close moments before, while Ashley Owen also rattled the bar for the Daffs.

Victory, their third in a row, took Llanidloes two points clear at the top from LLANFAIR UNITED who maintained their unbeaten start with a 3-2 home success over Aberaeron thanks goals from Andrew Hughes, Josh Astley and Daniel Jones.

After dropping down to the league this season, Rhys Stephens' side have underlined their championship credentials.

Bow Street were the day's highest scorers with a 5-0 romp against Radnor Valley, while Carno hit

back twice through Scott Williams' brace to gain their first point when drawing 2-2 at Knighton Town.

In division two, DYFFRYN BANW notched their first win in style when sweeping aside Penybont 4-1, Tom Foulkes scoring twice along with Jamie Huxley and Gerallt Davies after the sides had been all square the interval.

Dolgellau were 3-1 winners at Presteigne for whom John Cawley replied, while Talgarth Town won 3-0 at Newbridge

■ Earlier in the week, Welshpool maintained their winning start in the first division after prevailing 3-2 at Knighton Town, Will Thomas netting twice before Dan Bowen secured the points with a late volley. Newly promoted Kerry finished 1-1 at home to Radnor Valley, with Max McLaughlin netting a second half equaliser for the injury-hit Lambs.

Llany keep up top form with victory over rivals

AFTER a week's break, Llanymynech A continued where they left off with another victory to consolidate their top four position in the Oswestry and District Bowling League division one.

Their latest victims were one of their closest rivals, Llangollen, who they overcame 7-3 at home, taking the aggregate by 40 shots (164-124).

Kieran Jones and Mark Kirkham led the way, both winning to 10, while Roger Candlin was a 21-12 victor to keep Llany in fourth spot, just six points adrift of Chirk A in second spot.

Mid-table WHITTINGTON A succumbed 8-2 at Chirk A who prevailed by just 13 shots, with the in-form Ben Hampson and Aled Davies getting the two replies for the visitors to seven and 11 respectively.

One place below in seventh spot, CRIFTINS A, were involved in another closely fought affair as they went down 7-3 at lowly Corwen A, with just 10 shots separating the sides.

BLACK LION moved a point clear at the top of division three courtesy of a 7-3 (156-106) home verdict against Llangollen B helped by single figure wins from Mark Jones (21-5), Chris Lloyd (21-7) and Eddie Rushton (21-9).

In division four, IFTON kept up the promotion pressure after winning 6-4 (149-133) away to Weston Rhyn C, with Tanya Metcalfe leading the way to five while Pam Manley (21-12) was the best of the replies.

The win kept the St Martins side in third, one point behind LLANYMYNECH B who ran out 7-3 winners at home to Overton B.

Church make welcome jump up the table

CHURCH B edged away from basement danger in the Oswestry and District Bowling League second division after their 7-3 (148-137) home success against promotion hopefuls Weston Rhyn A.

Emrys Jones led the way 21-9, Roy Jones also winning to 13 as the home side, lying fourth bottom, gave themselves some breathing space.

Pip Penrose was a 21-7 winner for Rhyn who, lying fourth, still have plenty to do if they are to make a swift return to the top flight.

Third placed LLANRHAEDR A succumbed 6-4 at lowly Whittington B after the aggregate had been shared at 138 apiece.

Promotion hopefuls CHURCH A stay second after their 6-4 (157-140) reverse away to Cynwyd A, Phil Laker (21-11) taking the coppers.

GEORGE remain in basement danger following a 7-3 (146-133) home loss to ELLESMERE A, Frank Buckley winning 21-8 for the hosts while Michael Dovaston produced a 21-4 card for the Meresiders.

Ifton looking for home win

IFTON'S future in the Salop Leisure Shropshire Premier Bowls League remains in the balance after their 10-4 (228-198) loss at Bowring.

That defeat left them six points above the foot of the table, and needing a good haul of points at home to Burway on Friday night. Leighton Roberts continued his good form for the St Martins side, with his 21-12 success - his 10th win of the season.

Ifton's cause was helped with Wem continuing to prop up the table after their 9-3 loss at Wrockwade Wood, while Bylet - who are level on points with Ifton - were hammered 13-1 away to Hanwood.

Frankton's revival checked by Quatt

FRANKTON, who have eased their basement concerns in the Shropshire League premier division with three wins in four outings, were downed by seven wickets at Quatt to halt their revival.

Put in to bat, they struggled to 119 all out, Thomas Wilkie (47) and Scott Hale (35) providing the only resistance with a 70-run stand for the third wicket as Terry Cowburn took 5-28 from eight overs.

Despite Stuart Lammie (2-33) taking a couple of early wickets, Quatt eased home with Craig Harris finishing unbeaten on 56 and Ryan Waldon making

32 to leave their visitors with just one point for their troubles.

FRANKTON II, lying third in the 2nd XI League division one, continued their fine campaign with a 44-run success against Quatt II.

James Ellis (41) and Danny Evans (38) were the chief contributors as the Hardwick Park hosts battled to 134-7 from their 40 overs, Jordi Matthews snapping up 3-34.

Quatt struggled in response, being dismissed for 90 in 37.1 overs, as Grant McKay took an impressive

4-16 off 12 overs, and Will James 4-24 off eight.

KNOCKIN & KINNERLEY'S bowlers were on song as they set up their side's crushing seven wicket win over Forton in division one.

Liam Tucker led the way with a superb 6-16 in 12 overs, Hugh Morris also weighing in with 3-24 as Forton were bundled out for just 56 after opting to bat first.

Steven Gray's 23 not out then sealed the win to earn 23 points and keep Knockin in the upper reaches of the table.

Ruthless Oswestry march on at the top

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

OSWESTRY'S cricketers took another stride towards the Birmingham League division two crown after a ruthless showing with both bat and ball set up a crushing 167-run over Old Elizabethans.

The Morda Road men came back from Worcester with a maximum haul of points to maintain their 38-point lead at the top of the table.

With third-placed Halesowen fully 55 points behind them, the promotion prospects look bright for Robbie Clarke's side who now need just two wins from their last five games to virtually clinch promotion.

The foundation for Saturday's victory were laid by opener Joe Carrasco, who hit a fine 85 before being fifth out with the score on 151.

Carrasco received good support earlier on in the unlikely form of Charlie Morris, called into action as a makeshift opener in the absence of the unavailable Warrick Fynn.

Morris scored a modest 13, but more importantly he and Carrasco put on 90 for the first wicket.

"Charlie did really well at the top of the order," said skipper Clarke. "He normally bats towards the tail, but he plays straight - and he proved it on Saturday."

After Carrasco's dismissal, Roman Walker (48no) and Jonny Davies (25) gave a tremendous display of big hitting to lift the Oswestry total to 243-9 off their 50 overs.

Once Oswestry's Pakistani pace ace Sadaf Hussain had taken two early wickets in the OEs' reply, there was no way back for the Worcester club.

Ian Davies ripped through the middle order with 4-29, and the hosts were bowled out for just 76. Hussain finished with 3-16.

Oswestry face a double header this weekend, with two games in three days as they look to close in on both promotion and the title.

On Saturday they make their longest trip of the season to face Coventry and North Warwickshire, and on Bank Holiday Monday they face Penkridge at Morda Road (both midday).

Meanwhile, a magnificent innings by Josh Kirk was all in vain as OSWESTRY II went down by 60 runs against Milford Hall II at Morda Road in the Birmingham League 2nd XI League second division N.

Kirk hit an unbeaten 97, including 16 fours and two sixes - but received precious little support from his team-mates as Oswestry were bowled out for 137 in reply to the visitors' 197.

Of the other 10 batsmen, only Sam Davies (18) reached double figures.

Pitching in for festival history



The ladies team who took part in the St Georges festival

KNOCKIN & Kinnerley women tasted history as the first ladies team to represent the club for more than 50 years took part in a six-a-side festival at St Georges CC.

The feedback was excellent and the club are planning to do it again on Sunday, September 3 at Shifnal CC.

Ladies Captain Kate Mayne said: "The tournament was an amazing experience and we all thoroughly enjoyed the day."

"The club has a terrific junior section and fields both boys and girls teams in addition to the adult senior sides, so we thought why not have a ladies side?"

"We have been supported all

the way by the club and are looking for additional players to join the team and give cricket a go," she added.

For more information, contact the club via e-mail at knockinandkinnerleycc@gmail.com or check out their Facebook or Twitter pages.

Glas fall short chasing 152 for victory

PROMOTION-CHASING Cae Glas suffered a setback when slipping to a 29-run reverse at Acton Reynald to lose ground on the leaders in the Henshalls Shropshire League division three.

Looking to reel off a third straight win, the Glas drew first blood when they won the toss at Grinshill and elected to bowl first in this 40 over game following earlier rain.

Acton Reynald, although struggling towards the bottom of the division, made a positive start and at the half way stage of their allotted overs were going at almost five runs an over without the loss of a wicket. However, the Glas bowlers started to make progress with the ball, slowing down the run rate and as a result started to take wickets with the hosts ending up on 151-6.

Matt Coulson once again performed well in taking 2-15, ably supported by the rest of the bowling

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

attack including Gaz Edgerton (2-32).

With a seemingly modest total to chase, Acton Reynald bowled tightly and kept the run rate down to two an over for the first 10 overs. Wickets then started to fall regularly before George Jones and Gaz Edgerton gave the visitors hope when taking the reply to within 50 runs of the target.

Even when that partnership was broken, Edgerton pushed hard for the win with a top scorer of 37, but when his wicket fell, hopes faded and Acton Reynald took the final wickets to leave Cae Glas all out for 122, some 29 runs short.

Pick of the home team bowlers was Ken Harrison who took 4-33.

Next up for Cae Glas is a home encounter with

Chelmarsh on Saturday, as they look to keep alive their promotion quest.

CAE GLAS II went down to a three wicket loss to their Acton Reynald counterparts in the last over to remain in the lower reaches of the 2nd XI division three.

After losing the toss, Cae Glas were invited to bat first by league leaders Acton Reynald on a damp Gatacre wicket and outfield.

Tim Smith (37) and Tim Turner (27) batted doggedly in the conditions and put on 66 for the opening partnership.

Tight bowling from all the Acton Reynolds bowlers meant every run was vital, and excellent running between the wickets by Dave Edwards (37 not out) and Olly Ward (16 not out) allowed Cae Glas to post a total of 137-3 in their 35 overs. James Hughes took 2-51 for the away team.

Shropshire Cricket Lge fixtures for the weekend

Saturday

Premier Division

Madley v Market Drayton; Wern v Quatt; Frankton v Brosley; Whitchurch v Worfield; Newtown v Albrighton; Ludlow v St Georges.

Division One

Llilleshall v Wroxeter Grove; Bomere Heath v Montgomery; Welshpool v Knockin & Kinnerley; Forton v Beacon; Ellesmere v Shelton; Cound v Conder.

Division Two

Church Stretton v Willey; Prees v Allscott; Wellington 3 v Church Aston; Wheaton Aston v Shrewsbury 3; Ellesmere v Bishop's Castle; Pontesbury v Shifnal 3.

Division Three

Corvedale v Acton Reynald; Cae Glas v Chelmarsh; Iscoyd & Fenns Bank v St Georges 3; Trysuli & Seisdon v Hodnet; Peplow & Tibberton; Calverhall v Ludlow 3; Harpers v Much Wenlock.

Division Four

Coton Hall v Hinstock; Wroxeter Grove 3 v Bridgnorth 3; Oswestry 3 v Overton on Dee; Allscott 2 v Llandloes; Harcourt v Gulsfield.

Second Teams

Division One

Knockin & Kinnerley 2 v Frankton 2; Quatt 2 v Wern 2; Wroxeter Grove 2 v Madeley 2; Shelton 2 v Alberbury 2; Worfield 2 v Whitchurch 2; St Georges 2 v Cound 2.

Division Two

Conder 2 v Ludlow 2; Beacon 2 v Iscoyd & Fenns Bank 2; Market Drayton 2 v Bomere Heath 2; Montgomery 2 v Newtown 2; Shifnal 4 v Forton 2; Willey 2 v Llilleshall 2; Albrighton 2 v Pontesbury 2; Brosley 2 v Wellington 4.

Division Three

Acton Reynald 2 v Corvedale 2; Beacon 3 v Llilleshall 4; Bishops Castle 2 v Ellesmere 2; Much Wenlock 2 v Allscott 3; Quatt 3 v Cae Glas 2; St Georges 4 v Welshpool 2.

Sunday

Division One: Wern 3 v Newport 3; Worfield 3 v Wellington 5; Cound 3 v Sentinel 3; Alberbury 3 v Knockin & Kinnerley 3; Llilleshall 3 v Bomere Heath 3; Whitchurch 3 v Frankton 3.

Ellesmere's bowlers are in fine form

ELLESMERE eased to an eight wicket win after skittling Shrewsbury III for 41 in a one-sided Shropshire League second division clash.

Ashley Thomas took 4-12 and George Duncan 3-17, while not one batsman got into double figures for the struggling home side.

ELLESMERE II had a winning draw against Beacon III in the 2nd XI League division three to keep their promotion hopes alive.

Lee Davies hit exactly 50 as the Meresiders posted 147-5 in their 30 overs, George Austin also making 41. Beacon finished on 94-8 in reply, Jason Wirdnam bagging an impressive 4-9.

WELSHPOOL II proved too strong for a depleted Quatt II as they eased to a 102-run win to cement their position in the top half of the 2nd XI League division three.

Pool hit 159 in 40 overs thanks to 78 from Aaron Knight. Joe Cadwalader, Jordan Harding and Harry Bowen all took two wickets as Quatt were bundled out for 57 in reply.

Guils win in superb style

GUILDSFIELD kept alive their promotion chances in the Shropshire League division four after brushing aside visitors Coton Hall by seven wickets.

Put in to bat, Coton Hall mustered 156-5 from 35 overs, but the home side were up for the chase and got home with just under seven overs remaining to claim 20 points.

Sam Birch took 3-46 in 14 overs to keep the opponents in check.

Chris Proctor then led the home reply with 75, containing four sixes and five fours, and Gary Meredith lent good support with 46. Sam Birch finished the game with a six.

Sport

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Knockin ladies are
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TNS bounce back
in fine style – P38



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Monty face tough test at the leaders

MONTGOMERY face the task of putting the brakes on unbeaten Shropshire Cricket League division one leaders Bomere Heath when they head over the border on Saturday (1pm).

Bomere have swept all before them in the division this season, and need just one more win to be crowned champions.

But Monty - who had a losing draw against Powys rivals Welshpool last weekend - will be keen to bring home points to ensure they stay well clear of the relegation places.

WELSHPOOL welcome third placed Knockin & Kinnerley as they look to push for a top five finish, having been frustrated by Monty in their quest for victory. They returned with 14 points, and their hosts claimed six points.

Pool posted 137-7 in 40 overs, opener Paul Chapman holding the innings together with 74 while Russell Cadwalader chipped in with 24. Andrew Parker took 3-37 and Alex Bromley 2-39.

Monty were soon on the back foot in reply and, although Tim Davies (22) and Aaron Ruff-Cock (17) steadied the ship, they toiled to 101-8 by the close to at least deny their neighbours outright victory.

Wickets were shared with Rob Anderson taking 2-19 for Pool from his eight overs.

CAE GLAS whose promotion aspirations in division three took a blow with defeat at Acton Reynald, look to bounce back at home to Chelmarsh.

In division two, Ellesmere - who skittled Shrewsbury for just 41 last week - welcome Bishop's Castle.

Welshpool handed home draw in cup

WELSHPOOL Town have been drawn at home to Aberaeron in the second qualifying round of the JD Welsh Cup.

Pool were made to battle all the way before booking their ticket last weekend with a 3-2 extra time win at Churchstoke after keeper Dave Littleford had pulled off a crucial penalty save.

Llanrhaeadr, who had a bye in the first round, have been paired at home to Kerry, while Llansantffraid Village welcome Berriew and Abermule entertain Borth United. All ties likely to be played on Saturday, September 9.

Draw (central clubs only): Knighton Town v Bow Street, Llansantffraid Village v Berriew, Llanrhaeadr v Kerry, Welshpool Town v Aberaeron, Abermule v Borth United, Carno v Llandrinod Wells, Rhayader Town v Brecon Northcote, Llanidloes Town v Barmouth & Dyffryn United.

10k test looming

A BUMPER entry is expected for Sunday's Ellesmere 10k - a race which has been voted one of the best in the country.

A fast and scenic route through the town provides a terrific race for the serious athlete looking for a fast time or new runners looking for a challenge. The race starts at 11am at the Lakelands School. All entries must be in advance.

New Saints braced for Barry big guns

THE New Saints cross swords again with the once mighty Barry Town when the sides renew acquaintance in the JD Welsh Premier at Jenner Park on Friday (7.45pm).

The encounter pits together two of the big names of domestic Welsh football, with Barry the dominant force in the mid-1990s and early 2000s, before TNS took their mantle in the last decade.

The national league has been the poorer for Barry's absence, with the south Wales side setting the early benchmark before falling from grace.

After several years in the wilderness, they are now back in the top flight, and looking to prove a force once again.

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

"Barry set they benchmark, they were a side that we aspired to be like," said TNS boss Scott Ruscoe. "They were the side everyone wanted to beat, and it's good to see them back in the league. They are a big club, have a good coach and play football the right way."

Despite Barry's dominance, TNS came out top in the last two league meetings between the clubs, running out 3-0 winners at Llansantffraid in February 2004, while prevailing 3-2 in their last visit to Jenner Park in October 2003.

The clubs have met recently in cup completions, with the Saints defeating Barry 5-2 in the Welsh Cup a few seasons back and 4-0 last January in the final of Nathaniel MG League Cup.

The two camps can boast remarkable records in domestic football, with Barry winning seven Welsh Premier crowns, six Welsh Cups and four league cups. However, their achievements have been surpassed by TNS who now have 11 league titles to their names (six in a row), six Welsh Cup triumphs and eight league cups.

TNS's home tie with Livingston in the IRN-BRU Trophy will be televised live by S4C on Sunday, September 3 with a 2.45pm kick-off.

OSWESTRY EYE UP PROMOTION

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

HIGH-FLYING Oswestry look to close in on promotion from the Birmingham League division two in this weekend's Bank Holiday double.

With just five games left, the Morda Road men lie a commanding 38 points clear of second place Pershore after their crushing 167-run victory against Old Elizabethans last Saturday.

Their latest win opened up a 55-point gap on third placed Halesowen to keep Robbie Clarke's side in touching distance of making a return to the first division.

They now have two games in three days, starting with their longest trip of the season to Coventry and North Warwickshire on Saturday before hosting Penkridge on Bank Holiday Monday. Both games start at midday. Victories in those would all but secure promotion while also putting Oswestry on the brink of the title should there be favourable results elsewhere.

"It's a great position to be in, but we're not there yet," said skipper Robbie Clarke. "We just need to stay focused for these last five games, and try to maintain the high standards we have set for ourselves."

Meanwhile, some top names of the game will descend on the Morda Road ground when the Lashings All Stars take on Oswestry on Thursday, August 31.

The Lashings side include several leading lights of the game including West Indies legend Gordon Greenidge and England spinner Monty Panesar.

Also set to make appearances are former England stars Devon Malcolm, Martin Bicknell, Chris Schofield, Usman Afzaal and West Indian pace ace Tino Best.

Legendary commentator Henry Blofeld, who hangs up his mic for the last time on BBC Test Match Special this summer, will provide the commentary on the game.

Sponsorship boost for Town



Lining up for the new season - FC Oswestry Town's management and club sponsors (from left): Lee Austin MD of LACE building contractors, team manager Richard Williams Cooke, Darren Powell of DP Powell plumbing and Nick Maguire CEO of FC Oswestry Town

FC OSWESTRY Town hope for a change of fortune in the Hallmark North West Counties League division one when they host Cheadle Town at Park Hall on Saturday (3pm).

Town find themselves second bottom without a point after their 5-2 reverse at Prestwich Heys - their third successive defeat.

Meanwhile, buoyed by their first win of the season, St Martins head to early strugglers Wryley on Saturday (3pm).

After two defeats, the Saints are up and running in the West Midlands League division one after their 2-1 success at Kington Town with goals from Dom Brown and Tom Ash late on.

Llan boss is predicting a tense season

PUNDITS are anticipating a closely fought title race in the Spar Mid Wales League division this term - and Llanfair United boss Rhys Stephens has seen nothing to make him change his mind.

After two wins and a draw from their opening three games, Llanfair are looking in good shape as they seek to recapture their place in the Cymru Alliance next season.

Stephens has been impressed with what he has seen in the league this season, and feels the title could go to the wire with a number of teams involved.

"It's a tough league with a lot of good teams, and very few weak ones," he said. "There are no outstanding teams, but there could be seven or eight who are realistically in the mix for the title which could make for a very interesting season. Every point is going to be a big point."

Llanfair were made to battle against Aberaeron before prevailing 3-2. Dan Jones heading the first from a Paul Griffiths cross.

After being pegged back at the interval, Ben Jones released Andrew Hughes to restore the lead in the second half before Josh Astley crashed home a shot from outside the box to make it three.

Aberaeron pulled one back late on to set up a tense finish, but United held firm to maintain their unbeaten start.

Llanfair had a big home clash against revitalised **WELSHPOOL** in midweek before visiting Radnor Valley on Saturday. After four games on the road, Welshpool look to maintain their encouraging start in their first appearance of the campaign at Maesdyre when they take on Tywyn Brynrcrug on Saturday.

Guilds boss praises side after first win

GUILDSFIELD boss Nathan Leonard praised his side's resolve after hitting back to secure their first win of the Cymru Alliance season with a 2-1 success against Penrhyncoch.

"In the first half we never got going, we weren't at our best and were a bit sloppy," he said. "I asked for a reaction in the second half, and got it."

"We've got a good, honest bunch of lads here and they showed a lot of steel to come back the way they did against a strong, physical side like Penrhyn."

Leonard was forced into a defensive re-shuffle with Robbie James serving a one-match ban and Callum Bromley struggling with a hamstring injury.

So in came 17-year-old Curtis Weetman for his home debut, and the youngster repaid the manager's faith with an assured performance against two strong forwards.

With four points from two games, Leonard now faced some tricky selection choices this week as his side embarked on a tricky visit to Caersws on Tuesday night before hosting Ruthin Town on Friday night (7.30).

End of Season Golf Sale

Please call into the shop for more details

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